

U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

May 4, 2007

MR WILLIAM J MAXWELL  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
608 SOUTH WRIGHT STREET  
URBANA, IL 61801

Subject: BENNETT, GWENDOLYN

FOIPA No. 1063112- 000

Dear Requester:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Form OPCA-16a:

Section 552

- ☒ (b)(1)  
☒ (b)(2)  
☐ (b)(3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
☐ (b)(4)  
☐ (b)(5)  
☒ (b)(6)

- ☐ (b)(7)(A)  
☐ (b)(7)(B)  
☒ (b)(7)(C)  
☒ (b)(7)(D)  
☐ (b)(7)(E)  
☐ (b)(7)(F)  
☐ (b)(8)  
☐ (b)(9)

Section 552a

- ☐ (d)(5)  
☐ (j)(2)  
☐ (k)(1)  
☐ (k)(2)  
☐ (k)(3)  
☐ (k)(4)  
☐ (k)(5)  
☐ (k)(6)  
☐ (k)(7)

115 page(s) were reviewed and 107 page(s) are being released.

☐ Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning other Government agency(ies) [OGA]. This information has been:

- ☐ referred to the OGA for review and direct response to you.  
☐ referred to the OGA for consultation. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is finished.

☒ You have the right to appeal any denials in this release. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Director, Office of Information and Privacy, U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001 within sixty days from the date of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

☐ The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown, when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s).

If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.

☒ See additional information which follows.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy", followed by a stylized flourish or number "3".

David M. Hardy  
Section Chief  
Record/Information  
Dissemination Section  
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

To minimize cost to both you and the FBI, extra file copies of the same document were not processed.



## **EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS**

### **SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552**

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information ( A ) could be reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, ( B ) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, ( C ) could be reasonably expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, ( D ) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, ( E ) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or ( F ) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

### **SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a**

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

Serial Description ~ COVER SHEET

Total Deleted Page(s) ~ 8  
Page 22 ~ b2, b6, b7C, b7D  
Page 44 ~ b2, b6, b7C, b7D  
Page 55 ~ b2, b6, b7C, b7D  
Page 57 ~ b7D  
Page 58 ~ b7D  
Page 59 ~ b7D  
Page 60 ~ b7D  
Page 72 ~ b2, b6, b7C, b7D

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X Deleted Page(s) X  
X No Duplication Fee X  
X for this Page X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

1063112

100-HQ-293468-1M



SERIALS 1--

100-HQ-293468

SECTION 1

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

DO NOT DESTROY <sup>36871</sup> COPIED FOR FOIPA

FOIPA # 1063112

REQUESTED BY

DEC 9 1980

D BY

312

b6  
b7C

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

Transfer-Call

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY  
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

1734 NEW YORK AVENUE NW  
WASHINGTON, D C

HOWARD O HUNTER  
COMMISSIONER OF WORK PROJECTS

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 03-07-2007 BY 60324 auc baw/cpb/kj

June 24, 1941

Reference:  
5-NY-3717

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

There is enclosed herewith a copy of the report of  
an investigation made by this Division of a complaint which  
alleged that Gwendolyn C. Bennett made a false statement in  
submitting an affidavit, WPA Form 608, to this Administration  
stating that she was not a Communist.

The report of this investigation is referred to  
your Bureau for your information and files.

Very truly yours,

*Roger J. Bonds*  
Roger J. Bonds, Director  
Division of Investigation

Enclosure

b6  
b7C

RECORDED

INDEXED

SET 16

100-293468-1	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
1 JUN 27 1941	
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	

ENCL BEHIND FILE  
CH=13  
ENCLOSURE  
692  
MD



DECLASSIFIED BY 60324 auc baw/cpb/kj  
ON 03-07-2007

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

**NY** FILE NO. **100-56529 MVW**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK, N. Y.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>3/23/44</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>12/28/43; 2/4/44; 10/12/29; 3/3/44; 14-17/44</b>	REPORT MADE BY <div></div>
TITLE <b>GWENDOLYN BENNETT, with aliases: Gwendolyn Bennett Crosscup, Mrs. Alfred Jackson, Gwendolyn Bennett Jackson, Ruth Gale</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS <p>Subject <b>GWENDOLYN BENNETT</b>, negress, claims to have been born at Giddings, Texas, 7/8/02, and was raised in Washington, D.C. and Harrisburg, Pa. In 1916 subject came to NYC and has been over intermittent period a resident of that city since. In 1927 BENNETT married Dr. <b>ALFRED JACKSON</b>, now deceased. On 6/25/40 she married present husband, <b>RICHARD B. CROSSCUP</b>, white man. Subject is connected with the intellectual group of the Communist Party, and is believed to be close friend of <b>JAMES W. FORD</b>, colored Communist Party Vice-Presidential candidate, as well as <b>PAUL ROBESON</b>, <b>CANADA LEE</b>, <b>EARL BROWDER</b>, <b>ROBERT MINOR</b>, <b>FERDINAND SMITH</b> and other Communists. BENNETT is alleged to have been a member of the Communist Party Publicity Committee for NY District in 1936, 1937 and 1938. Her husband, <b>RICHARD BECK CROSSCUP</b>, was a Communist in 1935 and may still be one. In June, 1941, WPA authorities suspended subject as Director of WPA Art Center in Harlem and attempted to prosecute her under Section 80, Title 18, USC, because of her Communist affiliations. In December, 1941 subject was reinstated and charges against her were dropped because of insufficient evidence.</p> <p>Subject has been teacher at the School For Democracy for several years and is instructor at the Jefferson School Of Social Science at the present time. <b>GWENDOLYN BENNETT</b> is Director of George Washington Carver School, colored Communist front organization, located 57 W. 125 St., NYC, and is very active in Communist Party matters in NYC.</p>			
COPIES DESTROYED R180 JAN 25 1981			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED <b>E.E. Conroy</b>		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <b>MA</b>	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 2 - Newark 2 - Boston 1 - Capt. <div></div> DIO, 3ND 1 - Col. <div></div> D. of I. 2SC 3 - New York		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>293468 - 1</b> <b>28 MAR 29 1944</b> <b>12/16/92</b> <b>1048/DRM/gtt</b> <b>SE2TAP/CA</b> <b>2/1/90</b> <b>309765</b>	

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DETAILS:

The subject, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, with aliases, is being considered a key figure in the New York Field Division.

Background

GWENDOLYN BENNETT, a negress, claims to have been born in Giddings, Texas on July 8, 1902. A letter received by the New York branch of the Work Projects Administration, Sub-Treasury Building, Pine and Nassau Streets, New York City, from the Health Department at Giddings, Texas, indicates that birth records were not maintained at Giddings until 1903. The subject claims to have moved from Texas eight months after her birth when she went to live in Washington, D. C. After a short time in that city she travelled to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where she spent her youth. In 1916 the subject moved to New York City, and has been a resident of that city for an intermittent period since that time.

In 1927 the subject claims to have married Dr. ALFRED JACKSON, who is now deceased. On June 25, 1940 the subject married RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, a white man, and has lived with him in New York City since that time.

Education

The files of the Work Projects Administration indicate the following information concerning the subject's education and background:

1915 - 1916 Harrisburg High School, Harrisburg, Pa.

1918 Girls' High School, Brooklyn, N. Y.

1921 - 1922 Columbia Teachers College, New York, N. Y.

1922 - 1924 Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y., graduated 1924

September 1924 to June, 1925 Teacher at Howard University

September 1925 to June 1926 Julien Academy, Paris, France

September 1926 to June 1927 Teacher at Howard University

September 1927 to June 1928 Student at Barnes Foundation, Marion, Pa.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

1928 - 1930 Teacher at State Agricultural and Industrial School, Nashville, Tennessee; also a teacher in the Wade County Schools, Florida

Employment

The files of the Work Projects Administration indicate the following employment record of the subject:

1930 Publicity agent - W. C. HANDY PUBLISHING COMPANY

1930--1934 Part-time work - Y.W.C.A.

1935 Writers Project

1935-June 1941 Art project - Work Projects Administration

The subject is presently employed as Director of the George Washington Carver School and teacher at the Jefferson School Of Social Science.

Residences

In addition to having resided at Caddings, Texas, Washington, D.C., and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in her youth, BENNETT resided for a short time in Paris, France, during 1925 and 1926. Her residences in New York City were as follows:

July 1936 to November 1937 - 321 West 136th St., New York, N. Y.

November 1937 to January 19, 1938 - 250 West 154th St., New York, N. Y.

January 19, 1938 to date - 2 West 120th St., New York, N. Y.

Communist Party Activities and Affiliations

The records of the Work Projects Administration, Division of Investigation, Pine and Nassau Streets, New York City, were examined by the reporting agent and the following information obtained:

On June 19, 1941 the subject was investigated by the Work Projects Administration on the complaint that she had made a false statement in submitting an affidavit, W.P.A. Form 608, stating that she was not a Communist. The file also reflects a letter dated June 3, 1941,

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

from [ ] to [ ] of Investigation, Work Projects Administration, Washington, D. C., to the effect that [ ] felt that the facts in the case warranted prosecution of the subject under Section 80, Title 18, United States Code. A summary of the material contained in this file indicates that the W.P.A. investigators were advised by a former member of the Communist Party, whose identity was not disclosed, that the subject, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, had always been connected with the intellectual group of the Communist Party, and was a close friend of JAMES W. FORD, colored Communist Party Vice-Presidential candidate, and that in 1937 or 1938 she was on a committee of well-known Communists, the purpose of which was to defend Trotsky shootings in Russia. BENNETT was also a member of the Communist Party Publicity Committee for New York District in 1936, 1937 and 1938. Her husband, RICHARD CROSSCUP, was a Communist in 1935, and may still be one.

This file reflects that [ ] the subject of another W.P.A. case, stated, when shown a picture of the subject, that she was known to him as RUTH GALE and had been in the Communist Party movement for some time. In 1934 and 1935 [ ] stated BENNETT was connected with a Communist Party paper in Harlem, name unknown, and was also identified with a Communist Party Club at that time. This W.P.A. file reflects that the subject was a delegate to the National Negro Congress in Philadelphia in 1937 from the American Artists Guild.

Upon being interviewed [ ] [ ] advised Work Projects Administration investigator [ ] that GWENDOLYN BENNETT regularly read the DAILY WORKER and that the subject was President of the Harlem Artists Guild during 1937 and 1938. [ ] admitted accompanying BENNETT to the National Negro Congress in Philadelphia in 1937 and stated that while there BENNETT was very active and lobbied for the Young Communist League in order that its members would be elected to office in the National Negro Congress. Among the Communists GWENDOLYN BENNETT lobbied for were [ ] of the New York City Relief Bureau, [ ] of the Young Communist League, New York City.

When [ ] and Miss BENNETT returned to New York [ ] stated to the W.P.A. Investigator that she overheard BENNETT tell [ ] that she wished to make an oral report of the proceedings of the National Negro Congress at Philadelphia. She told [ ] that the Young



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b6  
b7C

NY 100-56529

Communist League attended 150 strong and ran away with the convention. She said the high light of the convention was the arrival at the convention of WILLIAM L. PATTERSON from Moscow, Russia, and that PATTERSON delivered a message from Moscow to the convention which thrilled BENNETT and other delegates. BENNETT told [ ] that objections to Communists attending the convention were squashed by PATTERSON and other Communists present. [ ] said she never saw the subject speak to PATTERSON either in Philadelphia or New York City, and that [ ] never met him.

At the time of this interview in June, 1941, [ ] claimed that the Harlem Artists Guild, with which GWENDOLYN BENNETT was affiliated, and which is now defunct, was not Communist, but had several Communist sympathizers as members. [ ] further advised that meetings of [ ] were held at their respective homes and Communist Party activities were discussed. Those individuals who attended who were not Communist sympathizers were disgusted. The names of the non-Communist persons attending were not recorded.

The records of the Work Projects Administration reflect that [ ]

[ ] The above mentioned individuals were the active Communists and Communist sympathizers connected with the Art Project which the subject was affiliated with.

This same file reflects that [ ] said that Communist meetings were held in a room [ ] in the [ ] and that she often overheard Communist matters being discussed. Subject BENNETT was in charge of this project and was continually going in and out of these meetings while they were in progress. [ ] and GWENDOLYN BENNETT tried to put pressure on [ ] to either join the Communist Party or leave the Harlem project.

At a party given in the [ ] honor at the home of [ ] BENNETT attended with [ ]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CM 1.3

b6  
b7C

NY 100-56529

a [ ] named [ ] and endeavored to interest the guests in the "Better Russian negro film movement". [ ]

[ ] was interviewed by W.P.A. Investigator and could not recall the discussion of a better Russian film movement, but he did recall that BENNETT suggested that a party be given for her friend, PAUL ROBESON. The party was never given.

[ ] advised she could not say whether the subject was a Communist or not, but she did know that the subject was a Communist sympathizer, and that the Harlem Art Center was over-run with Communists and Communist Party activities. She further stated that BENNETT was definitely partial to all Communist Party members.

The Work Projects Administration file further reflects that the subject was chairman and sponsor of the Negro Playwrights Company, Inc., which produced the Communist play BIG WHITE FOG at the Lincoln Theatre in Harlem in 1940. The subject was very friendly with RICHARD WRIGHT and PAUL ROBESON. The file also reflects that BENNETT campaigned in Pittsburgh for JAMES FORD, colored Vice-Presidential candidate, during the election of 1940.

and [ ] were interviewed by W.P.A. investigators regarding Communist activities of the subject, with negative results.

[ ] stated that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was reputed to be a Communist.

a member of the Communist Party Harlem section from March 10, 1936 to October, 1938, when he resigned, stated that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was reputed to be a Communist.

[ ] former member of the Communist Party, from 1929 to 1936, and member of the Central Committee of the Young Communist League, testified before the Woodrum Committee that the subject, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, attended a dinner given in honor of FORD, Communist Vice-Presidential candidate, at which BENNETT was seated next to EARL BROWDER and ROBERT MINOR. [ ] also stated that [ ] for whom GWENDOLYN BENNETT lobbied at the National Negro Congress, has been a high-ranking Communist Party member since 1935.

[ ] no residence

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

b6  
b7C

given, who is affiliated with the NEW YORK AMSTERDAM STAR NEWS, said he believed GWENDOLYN BENNETT was one of a group of negroes who went to Russia in 1931 or 1932 to make negro film. He was unable to state definitely whether BENNETT was a Communist.

[redacted]  
[redacted] of the NEW YORK AMSTERDAM STAR NEWS, said GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a Communist Party sympathizer and that the play BIG WHITE FOG with which she was affiliated was definitely Communistic.

[redacted] news correspondent residing at [redacted] said that GWENDOLYN BENNETT is accepted in Harlem, associated with and sympathetic with activities which have been considered Communistic.

[redacted] "New York Age" employee, who has known BENNETT for ten years, stated she has a reputation of being a Communist in Harlem. [redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted] at the NEW YORK AGE, 230 West 135th Street, New York City, said that she had known BENNETT for years and that she is regarded as a Communist.

[redacted] at the NEW YORK AGE, 230 West 135th Street, New York City, stated he heard rumors to the effect that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a Communist and had been removed as a teacher at Howard University because of some scandal in which she became involved.

The above-mentioned file reflects that a former member of the Communist Party advised W.P.A. investigators that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a member of the Communist Party Publicity Committee for New York District in 1936, 1937 and part of 1938.

[redacted]  
[redacted] is a friend of the subject.  
[redacted]  
[redacted] of the City of New York on the Communist Party ticket.

BENNETT is also a close friend of [redacted] writer

NY 100-56529

b6  
b7C

for COLLIER'S Magazine, known to be a Communist, who writes for the Party under the pen name of [REDACTED]

RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, the subject's husband, was a member of the Communist Party in 1935, and is very friendly with CYRIL BRIGGS, a staff member of the DAILY WORKER. A former Communist Party member advised W.P.A. agents that CROSSCUP has been seen in the Communist Party offices on 13th Street and at the Workers Book Shop as recently as 1938. CROSSCUP is a personal friend of [REDACTED]

The W.P.A. file reflects the following investigation was conducted by the Pittsburgh Branch of the Work Projects Administration:

[REDACTED] identified a picture of the subject as the person who spoke at a meeting of the Communist Party during the fall of 1939. This meeting was held at the Northside Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh. [REDACTED] said that he read in the local DAILY WORKER that BENNETT again spoke at a Communist Party meeting at the Northside Carnegie Library in November, 1940.

[REDACTED] of the FREDIANI PRINTING COMPANY, 71 Elm Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, stated that during the election of 1940 he printed 15,000 four-page leaflets for the Communist Party, which referred to a meeting at the Northside Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh on behalf of JAMES W. FORD, colored Communist. [REDACTED] also printed a DAILY WORKER western Pennsylvania edition for the Communist Party, with the permission of the DAILY WORKER of New York. This was in 1940. [REDACTED] was unable to furnish any literature regarding this meeting, or the Worker Edition that he published.

The following investigation was conducted by the Work Projects Administration office of the Boston, Massachusetts area:

Examination of the files of the Massachusetts State Department of Safety and the Boston City Police Department as of May 28, 1941 failed to reveal any information concerning the activities of RICHARD B. CROSSCUP or GWENDOLYN BENNETT. The FBI records in the Boston Field Office were also checked with negative results.

Information was revealed which alleged that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was affiliated with a Communist organization in Boston known as the Great Pacific Movement.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

On April 26, 1941 subject GWENDOLYN BENNETT was requested to appear before the New York Work Projects Administration for questioning regarding her Communist Party affiliations. She advised the W.P.A. at that time that she would only appear under the following circumstances:

1. If she was given a copy of the charges made against her.
2. That all accusers be made to make their accusations in person.
3. That investigations of the case be confined to circumstances connected with the charges.
4. That she receive a transcript of the proceedings of the interviews relative to the case.

b6  
b7C

Her demands were denied but she was advised that she would be permitted to have her attorney present during the interview. On June 4, 1941 the subject appeared with her attorney, [redacted] at the New York Office of the Work Projects Administration. Upon being questioned the subject denied she was ever a member of the Communist Party and that she had ever lobbied for the Young Communist League or any other Communist organization. She denied that she did publicity work for the Communist Party, or any Communist organization. She denied she was ever in Pittsburgh or had ever spoken on behalf of a Communist candidate or for a Communist Party cause. She denied ever having been connected with any committee for the purpose of ~~aiding~~ Russia or the Trotsky shootings in Russia. She denied that she ever wrote under a pen name or that she ever read Communist literature. She denied she was friendly with RICHARD WRIGHT or JAMES W. FORD, negro Communist. She refused to answer when asked if she was present at a dinner given for FORD and sat at the speakers' table with EARL BROWDER and ROBERT MINOR. She refused to answer when questions regarding her presence at the National Negro Congress Convention in Philadelphia were directed to her, or whether she had submitted a report regarding Communist Party activities at the Convention. BENNETT also refused to answer any questions as to her interest in the Russian negro film movement. She refused to answer the question as to whether she read the DAILY WORKER. The subject refused to say whether she was present at a banquet in honor of [redacted] an exile. She declared the National Negro Playwrights Company, Inc. used her name without permission. She also claimed her poems appeared in the DAILY WORKER without her consent. She stated she never saw WILLIAM PATTERSON, Communist Party candidate for Congress, but knew his wife. When asked if she knew LOUISE THOMPSON, wife of WILLIAM



b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

NY 100-56529

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
PATTERSON, she refused to say whether she knew her. The subject refused to answer the question "RICHARD CROSSCUP - is that your husband's original name?" She refused to answer the question "Was your husband's name RICHARD BECK CROSSCUP?" She refused to answer the question "Does your husband live in New York City with you?" She claimed to have never used any name but GWENDOLYN BENNETT, JACKSON, or CROSSCUP. She claimed to have never been in Russia at any time.

\_\_\_\_\_ of the Division of Investigation, Work Projects Administration, advised the reporting agent that Investigator \_\_\_\_\_ handled the case of GWENDOLYN BENNETT and was in a better position to furnish additional information regarding her. \_\_\_\_\_ was not available at that time and will be contacted by the reporting agent at a later date.

The files of the W.P.A. reflect that on December 13, 1941 \_\_\_\_\_ Assistant Commissioner, Work Projects Administration, wrote to \_\_\_\_\_ W.P.A. Administrator, New York City, clearing the subject's records of charges of Communism on the grounds of insufficient evidence, and making her eligible for reinstatement and further employment on W.P.A. projects.

\_\_\_\_\_

The records of Special Squad No. 1, New York City Police Department, 400 Broome Street, New York City, reflected that GWENDOLYN BENNETT is a teacher of "Life and culture of the negro people" and "Art and the People" at the School For Democracy, 13 Astor Place, New York City. This was on January 26, 1942. She was also Director of the Harlem Community Art Center, 125th Street and Lenox Avenue, New York City. In July and August, 1943, the subject taught the summer school session of the School For Democracy. Her course was painting and drawing for amateurs.

The file further reflects that the subject is presently teaching Art, History and Appreciation at the Thomas Jefferson School of Social Science. The file reflects a newspaper clipping from the NEW YORK AGE dated January 10, 1942 in which GWENDOLYN BENNETT was cleared of charges of subversive activity and reinstated on the Work Projects Administration. At the hearing Miss BENNETT was represented by \_\_\_\_\_ Attorney for the Joint Committee To Defend W.P.A. Workers..

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The records of the Bureau of Criminal Identification, 9th floor, 400 Broome Street, New York City, were also checked but failed to reveal any information not previously reported.

Lieutenant [redacted] 6th Detective District, 229 West 123rd Street, New York City, advised the writer that the subject is believed to be a Communist and is married to one of his air raid wardens, RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, a teacher in his air raid warden school. Lieutenant [redacted] was unable to furnish any additional information concerning the subject other than the fact that she was Director of the George Washington Carver School.

The Selective Service record of the subject's husband, RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, was checked at the Selective Service Board No. 55, 307 Lenox Avenue, New York City. CROSSCUP'S serial number is 3246 and his order number is 2389. He was born in Boston, Massachusetts, July 24, 1905, and is presently employed by the Walden School, 1 West 88th Street, New York City. He and his wife, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, operate a summer camp at Port Murray, New Jersey, which is known as Camp Wo-Chi-Ca. CROSSCUP and his wife reside at 2 West 120th Street, New York City. In 1929 CROSSCUP left the country and was issued Passport No. 84756. His destination was not revealed. He has been placed in Class 1AH as of July 24, 1943 because of his age.

The Selective Service file reflects a letter from RICHARD B. CROSSCUP to the Board dated April 20, 1942, in which he claims that his mother, LILLIAN A. CROSSCUP, age-70 years, was living with him at that time. He also states that his wife, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was employed at \$125. a month as a teacher in the School For Democracy, 13 Astor Place, New York City. CROSSCUP is Assistant Deputy Zone Warden, Precinct 28, Zone 1, New York City. He claims to have been a teacher since 1933. He lists relatives as follows:

Mother, LILLIAN A. CROSSCUP, 1085 Boylston St., Boston, Mass.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] whose identity is known

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
NY 100-56529

to the Bureau, was contacted regarding the subject and RICHARD B. CROSSCUP. He stated that he believed that both of them were active in Communist circles but that he would obtain additional information concerning their present Communist Party affiliations.

(U) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity is also known to the Bureau, advised the writer that he had known the subject for some time and that he believed her to be a member of the Communist Party. He expected to have close contacts with the subject some time in the future and hoped to be able to provide this office with additional information concerning her.

A review of the file of the DAILY WORKER indicates numerous references to the subject, all of which have been covered in this report.

A review of the files of this office indicates a newspaper article published in the New York WORLD TELEGRAM of November 16, 1943, which revealed the George Washington Carver School as a "Red negro ruse". A summary of the information in the article is as follows:

A new people's institution named the George Washington Carver School has been organized in Harlem with strong Communist backing in a propaganda bid for interest among negroes. One of its directors and chief backers is BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR., Communist functionary, whose election to City Council the WORLD TELEGRAM disclosed the week previous to instant article followed the Communist strategy of exploiting national, racial and religious feelings. At the opening of the institute, which is located at 57 West 125th Street, the DAILY WORKER, Communist Party organ, hailed the event as a major happening in Harlem. The head of the school, Dr. MAX YERGAN, is one of the country's foremost negro leaders of Communist causes, and is president of the National Negro Congress. GWENDOLYN BENNETT, who recently resigned from



100-56529

teaching at the School For Democracy, has been appointed Director of the new school. According to the article, the school is recognized by the thinking people of Harlem as a Communist attempt to exploit CARVER.

The files of this office further reflect that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a teacher of a course given at the School For Democracy, 13 Astor Place, New York City, in the winter term, January to March, 1943, entitled "Life and Culture of the Negro People". The subject is also listed in the files of the New York Office as being a teacher at the summer School For Democracy at Arcadia, Fishkill, New York. This organization is conducted by the School For Democracy, 13 Astor Place, New York City.

The files reflect that the subject spoke at a cultural group meeting at the Edison Hall, 228 West 47th Street, New York City, on Sunday, December 4, 1943. The subject of this course was "Contributions Of The Negro To American Art And Culture". Dr. YERGAN served as chairman. The file also reflects an article taken from the PEOPLE'S VOICE of November 27, 1943, concerning the George Washington Carver School, in which GWENDOLYN BENNETT, Director of the Carver School, stated "This is an educational institution which we are building to meet the needs of the people of Harlem. A carefully chosen curriculum committee from the Board of Directors will organize the educational program, changing and modifying the courses offered as our experience with the community dictates the need for change. The courses to be offered will be planned in keeping with the best educational principles at all times".

A catalogue of the Jefferson School of Social Science, winter term 1944, reflects the following information regarding the subject:

B.S. in Fine Arts, Columbia University, New York City.

Fellowships at Academie Julien, Paris, France

Barnes Foundation, Merion, Pennsylvania.

Taught Art at Howard University

Former Director of Harlem Community Art Center

Director of George Washington Carver School

The original directors of the George Washington Carver School are as follows:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED] BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR., Judge  
HUBERT T. DELANEY, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] CANADA LEE, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Reverend ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR., [REDACTED] PAUL ROBESON.  
FERDINAND C. SMITH, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and  
Dr. MAX YERGAN.

On March 10, 1944 a mail cover was placed on the subject and RICHARD B. CROSSCUP at their residence, 2 West 120th Street, New York City. As yet no information has been received through this source.

A copy of the subject's picture was obtained during the course of the investigation, and will be made a part of the 1A file of instant case.

The following description of GWENDOLYN BENNETT was obtained during the course of investigation:

Date and place of birth:	Giddings, Texas, July 8, 1902
Age:	42 years
Race:	Negress
Complexion:	Medium brown
Height:	5'
Weight:	185 lbs.
Build:	Heavy
Color of hair:	Black, cut short
Color of eyes:	Brown
Shape of face:	Round
Teeth:	White and even
Occupation:	Artist, teacher, Director of George Washington Carver School
Marital status:	Married
Remarks:	Occasionally wears rimless glasse has pleasant disposition, and always appears smiling and good humoured.

*6/24/44*

P E N D I N G

NY 100-56529

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEWARK FIELD DIVISION

At Port Murray, N. J.

Will attempt to ascertain whether Camp Wo-Chi-Ca at Port Murray is a Communist Camp and will report any present activities on the part of the subject or her husband, RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, in that area.

BOSTON FIELD DIVISION

At Boston, Mass.

Will report any pertinent information concerning the subject's husband, RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, which may be contained in divorce decree 16944, Probate Court, Massachusetts.

Will, if possible, interview the former wife of CROSSCUP for any information concerning CROSSCUP or BENNETT.

Will obtain any information as to CROSSCUP'S affiliations at Boston University, where he received an M.A. Degree in 1940.

Will report all information contained in the files of the Boston Office regarding BENNETT or her husband.

At Cambridge, Mass.

Will obtain any information as to CROSSCUP'S Communist affiliations at Harvard University, where he was graduated with an A.B. Degree in 1927.

Will contact the proper authorities at Cambridge School for any information concerning RICHARD CROSSCUP, who is believed to have been a teacher at that school for about eight years.

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At New York, N. Y.

Will contact [ ] Work Projects Administration Investigator, Sub-Treasury Building, third floor, Pine and Nassau Streets, who handled the investigation of the subject, and obtain any additional information concerning her Communist activities.

b6  
b7C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

Will recontact confidential informants of the New York Office in an attempt to ascertain the present activities of the subject and her husband.

Will continue additional investigation in the New York area concerning the subject's Communist Party affiliations and activities.

Will report the results of the mail cover placed on the subject and her husband at their residence, 2 West 120th Street, New York City.

→ 9 vcox! (SD)

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants referred to in the report  
of Special Agent [redacted] dated at New York, N. Y. March 23, 1944  
are identified as follows:

[Redacted box]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/15/92 BY 1048-DK2/jtt

ENCLOSURE



100-293468-3

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300.

--1--Enclosures for --Bureau--Office

Re. NEW YORK FILE NO. 100-56529

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 12/15/92 BY 1048/DAW/gt

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
New York, New York

JJM:HGF  
100-56529

April 21, 1944

Director, FBI

Re: GWENDOLYN BENNETT  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

*md*  
A photograph of the above captioned subject, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, obtained by this office, is being forwarded to the Bureau as an enclosure. The picture in question is for inclusion in the subject's case file at the Bureau.

Additional copies of the photograph are being retained in the proper case file in this office.

Very truly yours,

*E. E. Conroy*  
E. E. CONROY  
SAC

Enc.

*attached  
ENCL 1*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12-29-92 BY 1048/DKM/glt



32 MAY 2 1944

RECORDED

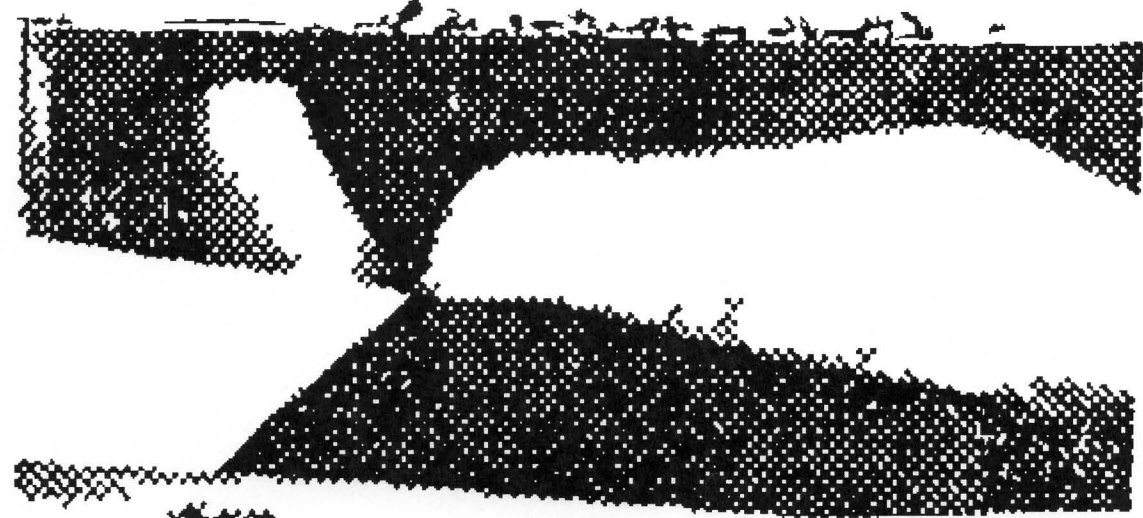
EX-16

100-293468-3

F B I  
22 APR 24 1944

*File*





HR:ZMN

NOT RECORDED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

May 5, 1944

100-293468

Special Agent in Charge  
New York, New York

RE SECURITY MATTER

Dear Sir

Please be advised that a security index card has been prepared at the Bureau, captioned as follows

**BENNETT, GWENDOLYN**  
with aliases

NATIVE BORN

COMMUNIST

Mrs. Gwendolyn Bennett Crosscup  
Mrs. Gwendolyn Bennett Jackson  
Mrs. Albert Jackson  
Ruth Gale

2 West 120th St.,  
New York, New York (Res.)

George Washington Carver School  
57 W. 125th St.,  
New York, New York (Bus.)

DECLASSIFIED BY 1042/DK/ltt  
ON 12/15/92

The above caption should be checked immediately for accuracy against the information contained in your files, and the Bureau should be informed of any discrepancies. You will prepare without delay a 5" x 8" white card captioned as above and reflecting your investigative case file number for filing in your Confidential Security Index Card File. In the event the above caption is not correct, the card you prepare should be correctly captioned, and the Bureau should be informed of the correct caption.

The caption of the card prepared and filed in your Office must be kept current at all times and the Bureau immediately advised of any changes made therein in that connection.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAIL

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Humphord \_\_\_\_\_  
Jones \_\_\_\_\_  
Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK

FILE NO 100-14816 md

REPORT MADE AT BOSTON, MASS.	DATE WHEN MADE 5/30/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/8,9,12,20/44	REPORT MADE BY <div></div>
TITLE GWENDOLYN BENNETT with aliases Gwendolyn Bennett Crosscup, Mrs. Alfred Jackson, Gwendolyn Bennett Jackson, Ruth Gale			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY (C)
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS</p> <p>Richard Beck Crosscup was married June 16, 1930 and granted a divorce decree May 29, 1936 charged with cruel and abusive treatment. Two children were born to the marriage.</p> <p><div></div> Crosscup was born July 24, 1905 at Dorchester, Massachusetts, graduated from Harvard University cum laude in 1927 receiving an AB degree and Boston University School of Education, Summer sessions, 1940 cum laude. In 1931 he worked as a janitor for the church and bank receiving \$40 per month until hired by <div></div> of Boston University to work for him personally on research work and writing at \$60 per month. <div></div> secured a tutoring job for Crosscup, paying him \$90 per month. In 1934 <div></div> secured a position for Crosscup with <div></div> of the Cambridge Upper School at Weston, Massachusetts, in charge of <div></div> program. Crosscup was active in the Trade Union Movement as a member of a teachers' union and served as a delegate to the Boston Central Labor Union, State Federation of Labor Convention. Crosscup is described as very independent, has his own opinion of things and will express them regardless of to whom he may be talking, has his own philosophy on life to the extent of sharing his wife and marrying a colored woman. Informants have no knowledge that he was connected with the Communist Party this area. All the ideas he had on life were his own based on information received. It was deemed impractical to interview Crosscup's former wife. No information concerning subject in Boston file.</p> <p>COPIES DESTROYED R130 JAN 25 1961</p> <p>-R U C-</p> <p>APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>Calouy</i></p> <p>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</p> <p>DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES</p> <p>100-14816-5</p> <p>RECORDED &amp; INDEXED</p> <p>15 JUN 1 1944</p> <p>EX-18</p> <p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <p>5 Bureau COPY IN FILE</p> <p>2 New York</p> <p>1 Capt. <div></div> DIO 3ND</p> <p>1 Colonel <div></div> D of I</p> <p>2 SC</p> <p>3 Boston</p>			

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated New York,  
March 23, 1944

DETAILS: The subject Gwendolyn Bennett with aliases is being considered  
a key figure in the New York Field Division.

The writer checked the records of the Massachusetts Probate Court, Pemberton Square, Boston, Massachusetts, and reviewed the divorce decree #16944, involving [redacted] and Richard Beck Crosscup. According to the record, the couple was married June 16, 1930 and [redacted] filed for a divorce against Richard B. Crosscup for cruel and abusive treatment March 16, 1936. The final decree was granted May 29, 1936. The divorce was uncontested by the husband Richard Crosscup. They list the following [redacted]  
[redacted] The attorney for the  
libelant was [redacted]

The writer reviewed the subject's record at the registrar's office at Harvard University, Cambridge, and ascertained that he was born July 24, 1905 at Dorchester, Massachusetts, his father's name being Louis Edwin Crosscup and his mother's name being Lillian Campbell Crosscup. He graduated from Quincy High School and Thayer Academy where he completed four years undergraduate literary work. He graduated from Harvard College in 1927 magna cum laude.

A review of the Professors and advisers was made by the writer and upon inquiry of [redacted] was advised that his adviser is deceased and there is no one presently teaching at the college who would know the subject.

She referred the writer to the Decennial Report for 1937 which would be the subject's own account of his activity for ten years following his graduation from Harvard. The report was reviewed by the writer and it was found that the subject had the following to say:

Occupation - teacher, Cambridge School, Kendall Green, Massachusetts  
Married - June 1930, divorced  
Children - Martha, born 6/13/31

The report continues: "During the fall and winter of 1930 I dug clams for a living in Maine. In the spring and summer of 1931 I did statistical work for an investment counselor and was also engaged in tutoring. I took a partnership in a school but the school failed. In the fall of 1931 and also of 1934 I worked as janitor of a church and of a bank. Since 1934 I have been in charge of the remedial program of the Cambridge School, Kendall Green, Massachusetts. I received my training at Boston University School of Education. I am presently active in a local trade union movement as a member of a teachers'

union. I served as delegate to the Boston Central Labor Union, State Federation of Labor and I am on the editorial staff of the American Teacher, the official magazine of the American Federation of Teachers.

The writer reviewed the subject's file at Boston University School of Education and ascertained that the subject first entered Boston University in 1933, and attended the summer classes off and on and finally graduated August 10, 1940, receiving an M. E. degree cum laude. [redacted]  
[redacted]

The writer interviewed [redacted] who advised that he was very well acquainted with the subject. [redacted] stated that he met the subject for the first time when he filed an application for entrance to the school of education. [redacted] stated that he had the necessary qualifications to enter the school but was lacking in funds. According to [redacted] Crosscup was very careless about his dress and at the first meeting with [redacted] Crosscup was badly in need of a haircut, had a soiled shirt, no tie and made a very poor impression. At that time Crosscup was working as janitor in a church and a bank receiving \$40 a month. [redacted] stated that he talked to Crosscup and told him he had the ability to write for magazines but Crosscup was not interested. [redacted] advised the writer that in viewing his record he knew the subject was clever and therefore hired him personally to do work for him and write articles. [redacted] paid Crosscup \$60 per month.

During his employment [redacted] secured a tutoring job for the subject, paying him \$90 per month. As explained by [redacted] Crosscup was up in the big money now, something that he was not interested in and so Crosscup hired another student to prepare his tutoring work for him, paying him for his work. [redacted] stated that Crosscup wrote many fine articles which [redacted] later sold for a considerable sum.

[redacted] was responsible for securing a position with [redacted] of the Cambridge Upper School, Weston, Massachusetts, for Crosscup.

[redacted] stated that Crosscup was very polite and a likable chap but had a very odd way of looking at life. For example, [redacted] came from a very low type family and the subject feeling sorry for the girl married her, and at the same time he himself not being in a position to support two people. [redacted] was artistically inclined and becoming dissatisfied after their marriage decided to go to New York to secure employment as an artist. She stayed in New York for one year, returning to Crosscup with a man by the name of [redacted] on the WFA. Crosscup accepted the two into his home and the three lived together until the arrival of the second child. According to [redacted] this was the cause of the divorce. The attitude adopted by Crosscup was if she prefers [redacted] over me I will divorce her. This was agreed upon by [redacted] and Crosscup and accordingly [redacted] divorced Crosscup, the same being uncontested and later



[redacted]

[redacted] said Crosscup is a very convincing speaker and after listening to him on his ideas of life one will wonder who is crazy Crosscup or the listener.

[redacted] stated it is his understanding that Crosscup is now married to a negress which does not surprise [redacted] knowing Crosscup as he does.

According to [redacted] Crosscup had no connection with the Communist Party in this area, however, he admits that Crosscup's philosophy is the same as that practiced by the Communist Party but they are strictly his own ideas. He believed in organized labor and was one of the members of the American Federation of Teachers in this district. About 1935 he tried to interest [redacted] in joining the union but [redacted] refused and no further pressure was brought by Crosscup. [redacted] stated that [redacted] had the same idea on life as Crosscup and talked on a very highly intellectual level but maintained a very low level.

[redacted] stated that in view of the fact that [redacted] is of the same type as Crosscup he is very doubtful whether anything would be gained by talking to her as it would not surprise him if Crosscup should return and [redacted]

The writer interviewed [redacted] Cambridge Upper School, Weston, Massachusetts, who advised that the subject became employed at his school as head of the Remedial program from September 1935 to June 1940, five school years. He described Crosscup as "a very independent cuss," very intellectual and a man who has the idea that the world is against him. He explained this by stating that Crosscup's father was a well-to-do man but lost his money and consequently Crosscup had to struggle to secure his education and figured that the world was against him all the way. He was interested in a teachers' union and active in the Teachers' Union located in Boston, Massachusetts, but never attempted to recruit any other teachers at the school.

If he wanted to talk about labor Crosscup would express his ideas regardless of who may be listening. [redacted] stated that Crosscup's economic ideas were on the Communist angle but he was not known to have any party affiliations.

[redacted] stated that Crosscup was very honest, had his own opinions and expressed them.

[redacted] had much the same idea of the subject's philosophy of life as that expressed by [redacted]

[redacted] stated that he knew [redacted] but had very little respect for [redacted] lived so to speak in the clouds,

MAP. 3

b6  
b7C

[redacted]  
[redacted] stated that Crosscup left his employment with him of his own accord and the circumstances surrounding his leaving are an interesting point.

[redacted] stated that at the conclusion of the school year the faculty produces a play for the benefit of the children in which all the faculty take part. Crosscup wrote the play that was produced by the faculty one year and it was a very splendid job. About the same time Crosscup became acquainted with a young musician and based on the success Crosscup had in writing the school play he had the idea that he would become a success in writing musical comedies and accordingly the young musician and Crosscup went to New York to crash Broadway. *will "Crash Broadway"*

[redacted] stated that Crosscup was smart enough to realize that he would have to maintain himself while in New York and secured a position as teacher at the Walden School in New York City as a grade school teacher. He taught the seventh or eighth grade. His only reason for accepting this position was for living expenses while he was making preparations to crash Broadway.

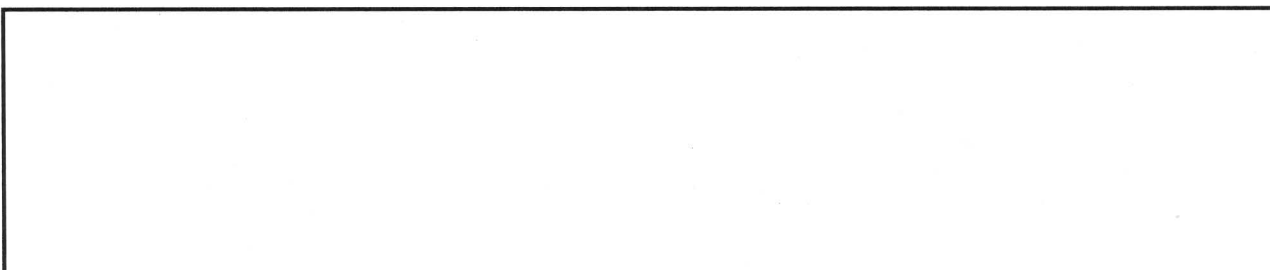
[redacted] shared the thoughts of [redacted] in connection with [redacted] that [redacted] ideas of life that it would be just as well to talk to Crosscup himself.

[redacted] stated that Crosscup had [redacted]  
[redacted]

Based on the information received from [redacted] and [redacted] it was deemed impractical to interview [redacted]  
[redacted]

A check of the indices of the Boston office fails to reveal any information concerning the subject Gwendolyn Bennett.

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D



No record was contained in the Boston indices on James Pfeiffer.

•REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN



UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Will contact the proper authorities at the Walden School, New York City for any further information concerning Richard Crosscup's activities while teaching at this school.

\*REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN-

b2  
b6  
b7C

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

[redacted] is the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Boston, Massachusetts, December 17, 1941 entitled American Youth Congress, pages six and one hundred thirty.

-REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN-

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

FILE NO **100-27217** **EMW**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEWARK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>5-11-44</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>4-14-44</b>	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 15px; width: 100%;"></div>
TITLE <b>GWENDOLYN BENNETT, WAS.</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY (C)</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS**

Investigation at Port Murray reveals subject known only by name, with no knowledge of subject's husband, **RICHARD B. CROSSCUP**. Subject not known to be manager of Camp Wo-Chi-Ca. Camp Wo-Chi-Ca described as a Communist camp. Confidential Informant   advises "DAILY WORKER" addressed to Camp Wo-Chi-Ca during summer periods.   believed to be   as Camp Wo-Chi-Ca. Information determined from State Police to the effect that Camp Wo-Chi-Ca located in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County, mail address R.D. 1, Port Murray, New Jersey.

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

- R U C -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/15/92 BY 1048/DKM/gjt

**REFERENCE:**

Report of SA   dated 3-23-44 at New York, New York.

**DETAILS:**

Information determined from Confidential Informant   was to the effect that Camp Wo-Chi-Ca is located at R.F.D. 1, Port Murray, New Jersey. Confidential Informant   advised that he was not familiar with the subject of instant case, except that he did recall   having come addressed to a party by the name of BENNETT. As far as he could ascertain and recall, the name of RICHARD B. CROSSCUP was unfamiliar.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<b>COPIES DESTROYED</b> <b>80 JAN 25 1961</b> COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 3 - New York 1 - Capt. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 20px;"> </span> DIO, 3ND (CONFIDENTIAL) 1 - Col. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 20px;"> </span> DSI, 2SC (CONFIDENTIAL) 1 - Boston (info) 2 - Newark <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 20px;"> </span> COPY IN FILE		100-34-4 <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">25 MAY 16 1944</div>	RECORDED INDEXED

NK 100-27217

[redacted] advised that this camp opens approximately around June 1 of each year and that its activities cease about Labor Day. He further advised that [redacted] and that her name was [redacted] and that she had come from New York, address unknown, a short time ago and [redacted] as Camp Wo-Chi-Ca. As far as was known by [redacted] of Camp Wo-Chi-Ca.

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that he had heard very little about Camp Wo-Chi-Ca, inasmuch as it was located approximately ten miles from Port Murray, and that the shopping centers of Washington, New Jersey and Hackettstown, New Jersey would obviate the necessity of having the people use Port Murray as a business town. He did recall one incident, however, in which a truck driver whose name he did not know stopped at the [redacted] and asked him what kind of camp it was. When the truck driver was asked the reason for this, he stated he had a desire to place his son in a summer camp, and that upon investigation of Camp Wo-Chi-Ca, he found that it was "a damn Communist camp."

The New Jersey State Police Sub-station located at Washington, New Jersey was contacted by the reporting agent for information relative to Camp Wo-Chi-Ca. They advised that under date of October 2, 1941, an investigation had been conducted by them concerning the camp. The following is substantially the information obtained by their investigation.

Camp Wo-Chi-Ca is also known as Pleasant Grove Acres and is situated on the Califon-Pleasant Grove Road in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County, R.D. 1, Port Murray, New Jersey. A contact with farmers living in and near the camp determined that Camp Wo-Chi-Ca was a Communist camp from New York City and consists of people of all races and creeds. At the present time the camp was closed for the winter season, and [redacted]

The name of [redacted] arose in connection with the camp as [redacted] It was learned that [redacted] had left a forwarding address care of [redacted] Information was obtained from Tax Collector of Lebanon Township to the effect that taxes on the camp were paid by a [redacted]

The following men are listed as camp directors:

[redacted]

NK 100-27217

[REDACTED]

Two other individuals connected with the camp by the name of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were mentioned in the investigation, but addresses were not obtained. Nowhere in connection with the investigation of the camp did the name of the subject or RICHARD B. CROSSCUP arise. They are not known in the vicinity.

Inasmuch as Camp Wo-Chi-Ca is not being operated at the present time and inasmuch as no further background information is available concerning the subject and persons mentioned in this report, this case is being considered referred upon completion to the office of origin. In the event it is desired that a further check be made at a later date during the time of operation of Camp Wo-Chi-Ca, the Newark Field Division will conduct such investigation upon receipt of information from the New York Field Division.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

NK 100-27217

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS



A copy of this report is being designated for the Boston Field Division for their information in conducting investigation within that territory.



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FILE NO

100-56529 EN

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 8/22/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/19, 26; 7/20, 27; 8/1-3, 14, 16/44	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
TITLE GWENDOLYN BENNETT, with aliases  DECLASSIFIED BY 60324 auc baw/cpb/kj ON 03-07-2007			CHARACTER OF CASE  INTERNAL SECURITY-C

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS**

[redacted] advised that subject was a member of the Communist Party and that about 1939 she attended a communist school located near Kingston, New York, [redacted]

[redacted] Subject's activities at present consist solely in directing the affairs of the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL of which the subject is the director. [redacted] advised that at the present time the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL does not appear to be very active and may be in poor financial condition. On May 21, 1944, the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL held "I AM AN AMERICAN DAY" program in Harlem; about 12,000 people attended; approximately \$900 collected, and the Reverend CLAYTON POWELL, Jr., [redacted] "THE RACES OF MANKIND", MAX YERGAN and CANADA LEE spoke.

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

- P -

**REFERENCE:**

Bureau File 100-293468.  
Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated March 23, 1944, at New York.

**DETAILS:**

AT NEW YORK CITY,

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE~~

**COPIES DESTROYED**  
**180 JAN 25 1961**

Thirty-day mail cover placed on subject and her husband RICHARD B. CROSSCUP at their residence, 2 West 120 Street, failed to produce any information of value.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>E.E. Conroy</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT (5) Bureau 1 Col. [redacted] D. of I., 2 SC 1 Capt. [redacted] DIO, 3 ND 3 New York 317 COPY IN FILE		RECORDED & INDEXED 32	100-56529-6 215420-6
		<del>CONFIDENTIAL</del>	

30 OCT 11 1944

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Confidential Informant [ ] whose identity is known to the Bureau, advised the writer that [ ] that she was definitely a member of the Communist Party. He stated that he distinctly remembers seeing the subject about 1939 when she attended a communist school located near Kingston, New York. [ ] According to the informant, this school was located on a farm near Kingston and was the gathering place for the intellectuals of the Communist Party.

Confidential Informant [ ] was not sure but believed GWENDOLYN BENNETT traveled to Moscow during a summer vacation around 1937 or 1938. According to [ ] the subject is also friendly with [ ] of Camp WO-CHI-CA (Workers' Children Camp), as well as [ ] the Camp and [ ] same address as [ ] the Camp and [ ]

Confidential Informant [ ] advised the reporting agent

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

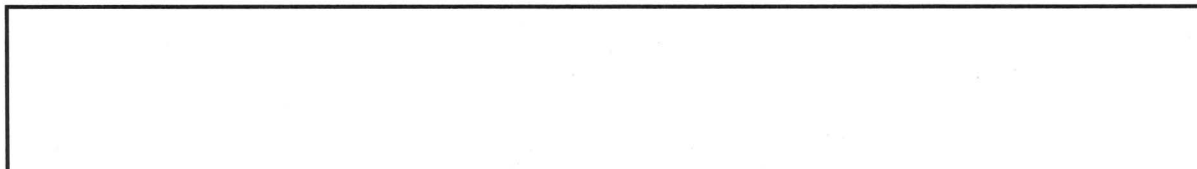
(U)

(U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



a meeting of the  
GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL on Sunday afternoon, May 21 at 3:00  
o'clock at the Golden Gate Ballroom, 142nd Street and Lenox Avenue. The  
affair was a FOLK FESTIVAL celebrating I AM AN AMERICAN DAY. The pro-  
gram obtained by the informant is set out below:

" THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
of the  
GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL

cordially invites you to attend a

FOLK FESTIVAL

celebrating

I AM AN AMERICAN DAY

on

Sunday, Afternoon, May Twenty-First  
at three o'clock

at the

GOLDEN GATE BALLROOM  
142nd Street and Lenox Ave.,  
New York

Reserved Seats: \$2.00, \$1.20  
General Admission: 60 cents  
Tax included on all tickets.

PAGE 2

"In time of war the songs of the people rally the spirits of  
those who fight against Fascism for a free world. In time of  
peace the songs and dances of the different nations are the

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"warp and woof around which the people's culture is woven and made strong. Mindful of this, the George Washington Carver School takes this opportunity, through their songs and dances, to pay tribute to the Allied Nations and the oppressed peoples of the earth who are giving their lives today that we may live in a better world. Any patriotic celebration of the American people must take into consideration the varied streams of culture that have flowed into our Nation. Any concept of peace must take note of the need for cooperation among all peoples, here and abroad. The future of our Nation will be secure only through the full participation of all its people--Negro and white, Jew and Gentile, Protestant and Catholic, native and foreign-born.

"The foremost leaders of the Allied Nations have declared their intention to fight in unison for the elimination of Fascism from the face of the earth and to work in unified cooperation for a lasting peace. Here at home such unison and cooperation must be the core of our war effort and the unqualified goal of our peace. Unity is the precept around which our American ideals were built and must be maintained. It is in this spirit that we celebrate I Am An American Day by presenting a folk festival around the theme: 'UNITED, WE MARCH FORWARD AS ONE NATION!'"

PAGE 3

"PROGRAM

b6  
b7C

INVOCATION

[REDACTED]

NATIONAL ANTHEM

GROUP SINGERS:

Hall Johnson Choir, Finnish Women's Choir, Chinese People's Chorus

SOLOISTS:

[REDACTED]

South American Folk Songs  
Czechoslovakian Folk Songs

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of the Czechoslovak Choral Society of N. Y.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED]

Flamenco Songs  
Russian Songs  
Soloist with Chinese  
People's Chorus

DANCERS:

[REDACTED]

The Negro Speaks of  
Rivers  
Poem by Langston Hughes  
Music by [REDACTED]  
Recitation by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of the Martha Graham  
Dancers

[REDACTED]

Harmonica Breakdown  
Haitian Dance

[REDACTED]

Comedian from Cafe Society Uptown

[REDACTED]

Boogie-Woogie Pianist

b6  
b7C

All-Star Quartette:

[REDACTED]

from Cafe Society Uptown  
from The Three Deuces  
with the Kirby Orchestra

SPEAKERS:

[REDACTED]

of Public Affairs,

pamphlet--"The Race of Mankind"

Dr. Max Yergan, Council on African Affairs

Race and Nationality  
The George Washington  
Carver School

Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Jr.

[REDACTED]

Developing the Thinking  
Citizen  
Art and the People

CHAIRMAN:

Gwendolyn Bennett, Director of the George Washington Carver School "

Inspector's report concerning the above-mentioned celebra-  
tion is as follows:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"TIME: 4 P.M. - CLOSED: 6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE: Approximately 1200. Most of which were the intelligencia, Inter Racial groups and service-men in uniform.

b6  
b7C

MASTER OF CEREMONIES - GWENDOLYN BENNETT,  
Director of George Washington Carver School.

"The invocation was offered by the [redacted]  
[redacted] The National Anthem was sung.  
Hall Johnson Choir Sang. Solos were sung by [redacted] and [redacted]  
[redacted] a Czechoslovakian. [redacted] Quartette from Cafe So-  
ciety Uptown offered a couple of numbers.

SPEAKERS

[redacted] of Public Affair pamphlet  
"THE RACES OF MANKIND", said that all men given the same training and opportunities were equal. She endorsed the George Washington Carver School; said it was a credit to the Negroes of this community and was deserving of the support of all races.

"DR. MAX YERGAN, Council of African Affairs, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the George Washington Carver School, welcomed the groups and told of the progress of the school which was encouraging and asked for continued support by people of Harlem.

"CANADA LEE was introduced at this time. He read a letter from one of his buddies who is with the Armed Forces in the South Pacific indicating that a good kind of Democracy that was being practiced among the soldiers in that area. LEE ended his talk by singing 'MY COUNTRY TIS OF THEE'.

"A CLAYTON POWELL - Brought the house down with a speech 'WHY A SEPARATE CELEBRATION IN HARLEM ON I AM AN AMERICAN DAY.' POWELL stated a day of National celebration should be made on the days when GOVERNOR TALMADGE of Georgia and MARTIN DIES of Texas are burned. POWELL stated that we should fight until every minority group in this country was accorded full democratic treatment. GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"was dedicated to the full Democratic principles of all peoples and should receive everyone's support.

At this point he appealed for funds for the school and started with a check for \$50.00 himself. The total amount collected was approximately \$900.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Work Projects Administration, Sub-Treasury Building, Pine and Nassau Streets, New York City, was interviewed by the writer in regard to additional information regarding the activities of the subject. He advised that he was unable to furnish any additional information not previously reported but that he felt any one of the following individuals might be of assistance in obtaining information concerning her:

[REDACTED]

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

Additional investigation conducted in the vicinity of 57 West 125th Street, where the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL is located, and 2 West 120th Street by Special Agent [REDACTED] and the reporting agent, indicates that RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, husband of the subject, is at the present time engaged in Camp activities outside of New York City.

The subject GWENDOLYN BENNETT appears to be engaged solely in directing the activities of the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL.

- P E N D I N G -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION:

At New York City, N. Y. - Will endeavor to obtain handwriting specimens of the subject and will report all communist activities concerning the subject and the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL, with which she is affiliated.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants mentioned in the  
report of Special Agent [redacted] dated August 22,  
1944, at New York, New York, are as follows:

(U)

(S) [redacted] whose identity is known to  
the Bureau.

[redacted] whose identity is known to  
the Bureau.

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

JJM:POH  
100-56529

TO

Director, FBI

DATE November 18, 1944

FROM

SAC, New York

SUBJECT

GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
(Bureau File No. 100-293468)

Information received by this office indicates that the Subject's entire time and effort appears to be centered around the George Washington Carver School, Negro Communist front organization located at 57 West 125th Street, New York City. The Subject is the Director of the above-mentioned school.

Informants of this office state that the Subject at the present time appears to have little if any activity in general Communist Party affairs.

In view of the above information, the Subject's case is being placed in a pending inactive status at this time. A report will be submitted on or before February 22, 1945.

12/15/92 1048 DKM/gtt

RECORDED

100-293468 7



6 1 NOV 25 1944

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FILE NO 100-56529 RPH

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE FEB 22 1945	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/5, 8, 23; 10/30; 11/14, 18, 25; 12/12, 14, 26/44; 2/10, 19/45	REPORT MADE BY <div></div>
TITLE GWENDOLYN BENNETT, with aliases		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS Major portion of subject's activity confined to the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL of which she is the Director. BENNETT also teaches at JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, alleged Communist dominated organization located at 575 6th Avenue, NYC.			
REFERENCE: Bureau File 100-293468, Report of Special Agent <div></div> dated August 22, 1944 at New York, New York.			
DETAILS: AT NEW YORK CITY			
<div></div>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED E. C. Connelley		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 7 Bureau 9 New York		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 104-273424-8	
COPIES DESTROYED R/S JAN 25 1961		RECORDED INDEXED	

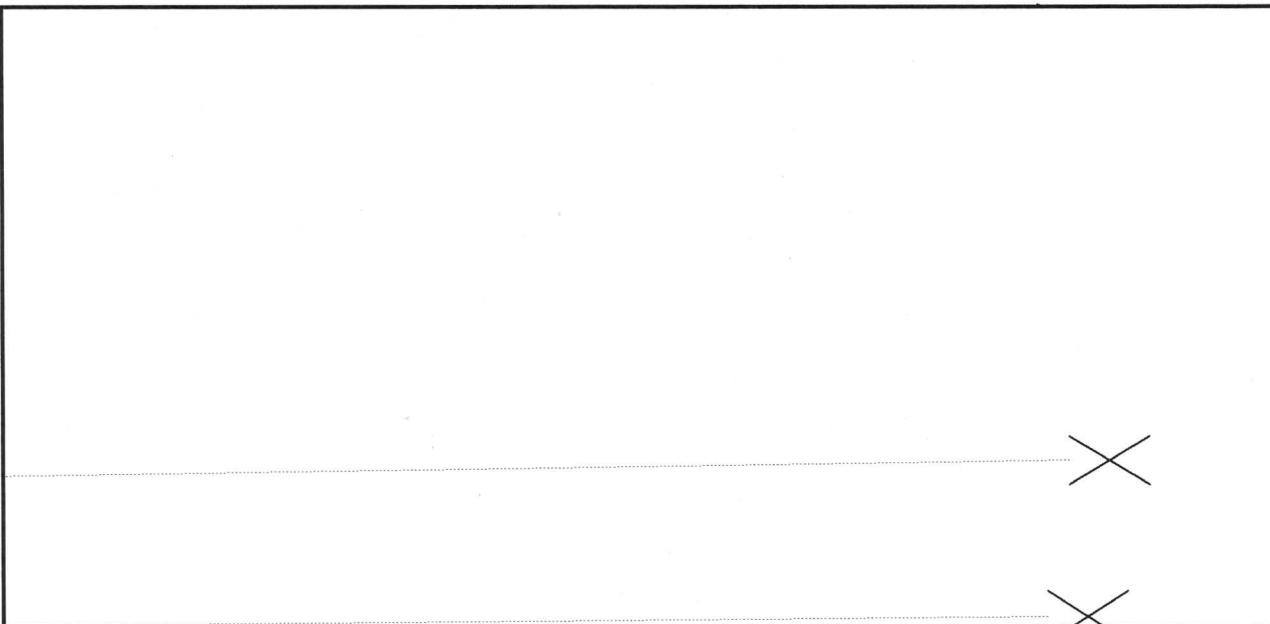
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

50 MAY 2 - 1945

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

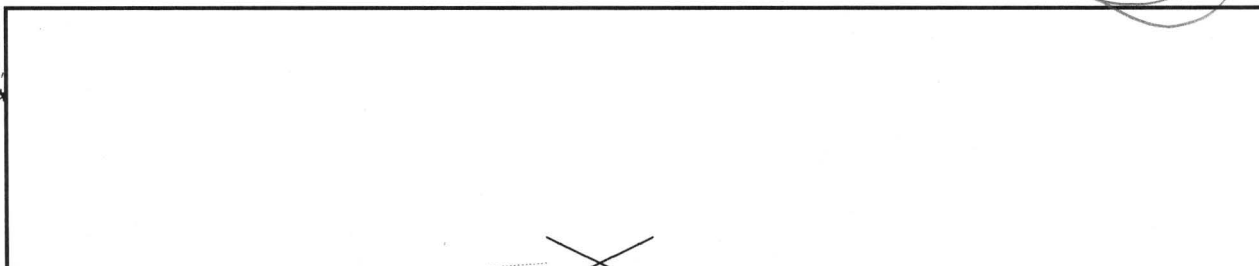


A review of the 1944 catalogue of the JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE indicates that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was an instructor in "Art, History, and Appreciation."

alleged Communist dominated organization

The JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, 575 Sixth Avenue, New York City, was contacted by the reporting agent under suitable pretext and the following information obtained:

At the present time GWENDOLYN BENNETT is an instructor on the staff of the above mentioned school and is teaching two classes on Wednesday evenings. The first class is from 7:10 to 8:40 P. M. and is entitled, "Art, History, and Appreciation of the Late Renaissance. The second class is from 8:50 to 10:20 P. M. and is on modern art.



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



b6  
b7C  
b7D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

(U)

(U)

The following information was newspaper comment concerning the subject and her activities: (U)

The "Peoples Voice", negro Communist newspaper in issue of September 23, 1944 contained a picture of the subject together with background information which has been previously furnished to the Bureau. (U)

The "Daily Worker" in issue of December 9, 1944 contained an article concerning the course "The Negro and the Nation" given jointly by the JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL, and the "Peoples Voice". The article stated that the outstanding lecturers included [redacted] GWENDOLYN BENNETT, and ALPHAEUS HUNTON (known Communists).

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

"The New York Amsterdam News" Negro newspaper, in issue of January 20, 1945 stated that a meeting took place at the Schomburg Collection, 135 Public Library on January 14, 1945, at which time Doctor REDDICK, Curator of the Schomburg Collection, and GWENDOLYN BENNETT spoke regarding GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER. The substance of Miss BENNETT'S talk was the meaning of the life of Doctor CARVER as related to the general education of Negroes in America.

The "Peoples Voice" in issue of January 27, 1945, contained a picture of the subject, together with the following individuals:

[redacted] of CARVER; ✓  
[redacted]  
Councilman BENJAMIN DAVIS;  
[redacted]

b6  
b7C

"The New York Amsterdam News" of February 10, 1945 in the column entitled, "Labor Forum" [redacted] stated:

"The George Washington Carver School aims not only to help working people understand better the world they live in; it also seeks to keep alive the life and work of Dr. Carver as a source of inspiration to others who face, as he did, adversity and lack of opportunity. Whereas the People's College is an outgrowth of the schools and colleges in Atlanta, the Carver School is in a sense an outgrowth of the labor movement in New York. According to the Director of the Carver School, Gwendolyn Bennett, nationally known poet and author, almost half of the students attending the school since it was organized in October, 1943, have been members of trade unions. Some fifteen CIO and AFL unions were represented in the student body of 358 last term."

The "New York Age" Negro newspaper in issue of February 10, 1945, contained an article that the BEN DAVIS CLUB would hold a weeks celebration in honor of Negro History Week. The article went on to say:

"The Ben Davis Club (named for Councilman Davis) of the CPA has arranged programs during Negro History Week at its headquarters, 2315 Seventh Avenue, Sunday, February 11th, at 4 p.m. at the club, a forum will be held at which time Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Jr. and Miss Gwendolyn Bennett, director of the George Washington Carver School of Harlem will be guest speakers, also entertainment."

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

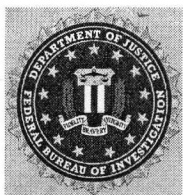
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

The "Pittsburgh Courier", Negro newspaper, in issue of February 17, 1945 indicates that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, Director of the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL, participated in a forum in connection with Negro History Week, the forum taking place at N.M.U. Recreation Hall.

- P E N D I N G -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

May 4, 2007

MR WILLIAM J MAXWELL  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
608 SOUTH WRIGHT STREET  
URBANA, IL 61801

Subject: BENNETT, GWENDOLYN

FOIPA No. 1063112- 000

Dear Requester:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Form OPCA-16a:

Section 552

☒ (b)(1)

☒ (b)(2)

☐ (b)(3) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ (b)(4)

☐ (b)(5)

☒ (b)(6)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

☐ (b)(7)(B)

☒ (b)(7)(C)

☒ (b)(7)(D)

☐ (b)(7)(E)

☐ (b)(7)(F)

☐ (b)(8)

☐ (b)(9)

Section 552a

☐ (d)(5)

☐ (j)(2)

☐ (k)(1)

☐ (k)(2)

☐ (k)(3)

☐ (k)(4)

☐ (k)(5)

☐ (k)(6)

☐ (k)(7)

115 page(s) were reviewed and 107 page(s) are being released.

☐ Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning other Government agency(ies) [OGA]. This information has been:

☐ referred to the OGA for review and direct response to you.

☐ referred to the OGA for consultation. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is finished.

☒ You have the right to appeal any denials in this release. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Director, Office of Information and Privacy, U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001 within sixty days from the date of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

☐ The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown, when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s).

If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.

☒ See additional information which follows.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy", followed by a stylized flourish or number "3".

David M. Hardy  
Section Chief  
Record/Information  
Dissemination Section  
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

To minimize cost to both you and the FBI, extra file copies of the same document were not processed.

## EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute(A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information ( A ) could be reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, ( B ) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, ( C ) could be reasonably expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, ( D ) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, ( E ) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or ( F ) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

Serial Description ~ COVER SHEET

Total Deleted Page(s) ~ 8  
Page 22 ~ b2, b6, b7C, b7D  
Page 44 ~ b2, b6, b7C, b7D  
Page 55 ~ b2, b6, b7C, b7D  
Page 57 ~ b7D  
Page 58 ~ b7D  
Page 59 ~ b7D  
Page 60 ~ b7D  
Page 72 ~ b2, b6, b7C, b7D

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X Deleted Page(s) X  
X No Duplication Fee X  
X for this Page X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

1063112

100-HQ-293468-1M



SERIALS 1--

100-HQ-293468

SECTION 1

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

36871  
DO NOT COPIED FOR  
DESTROY FOIPA

FOIPA # 1063112

REQUESTED BY

DEC 9 1980

D BY

312

b6  
b7C

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

Transfer-Call

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY  
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

1734 NEW YORK AVENUE NW  
WASHINGTON, D C

HOWARD O HUNTER  
COMMISSIONER OF WORK PROJECTS

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 03-07-2007 BY 60324 auc baw/cpb/kj

June 24, 1941

Reference:  
5-NY-3717

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

There is enclosed herewith a copy of the report of  
an investigation made by this Division of a complaint which  
alleged that Gwendolyn C. Bennett made a false statement in  
submitting an affidavit, WPA Form 608, to this Administration  
stating that she was not a Communist.

The report of this investigation is referred to  
your Bureau for your information and files.

Very truly yours,

*Roger J. Bonds*  
Roger J. Bonds, Director  
Division of Investigation

Enclosure

b6  
b7C

RECORDED

INDEXED

SET 16

100-293468-1	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
1 JUN 27 1941	
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	

ENCL BEHIND FILE  
CH=13  
ENCLOSURE  
692  
MP

DECLASSIFIED BY 60324 auc baw/cpb/kj  
ON 03-07-2007

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

**NY** FILE NO. **100-56529 MVW**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK, N. Y.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>3/23/44</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>12/28/43; 2/4/44; 10/12/29; 3/3/44; 14-17/44</b>	REPORT MADE BY <div></div>
TITLE <b>GWENDOLYN BENNETT, with aliases; Gwendolyn Bennett Crosscup, Mrs. Alfred Jackson, Gwendolyn Bennett Jackson, Ruth Gale</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS <p>Subject <b>GWENDOLYN BENNETT</b>, negress, claims to have been born at Giddings, Texas, 7/8/02, and was raised in Washington, D.C. and Harrisburg, Pa. In 1916 subject came to NYC and has been over intermittent period a resident of that city since. In 1927 BENNETT married Dr. <b>ALFRED JACKSON</b>, now deceased. On 6/25/40 she married present husband, <b>RICHARD B. CROSSCUP</b>, white man. Subject is connected with the intellectual group of the Communist Party, and is believed to be close friend of <b>JAMES W. FORD</b>, colored Communist Party Vice-Presidential candidate, as well as <b>PAUL ROBESON</b>, <b>CANADA LEE</b>, <b>EARL BROWDER</b>, <b>ROBERT MINOR</b>, <b>FERDINAND SMITH</b> and other Communists. BENNETT is alleged to have been a member of the Communist Party Publicity Committee for NY District in 1936, 1937 and 1938. Her husband, <b>RICHARD BECK CROSSCUP</b>, was a Communist in 1935 and may still be one. In June, 1941, WPA authorities suspended subject as Director of WPA Art Center in Harlem and attempted to prosecute her under Section 80, Title 18, USC, because of her Communist affiliations. In December, 1941 subject was reinstated and charges against her were dropped because of insufficient evidence.</p> <p>Subject has been teacher at the School For Democracy for several years and is instructor at the Jefferson School Of Social Science at the present time. <b>GWENDOLYN BENNETT</b> is Director of George Washington Carver School, colored Communist front organization, located 57 W. 125 St., NYC, and is very active in Communist Party matters in NYC.</p>			
COPIES DESTROYED R180 JAN 25 1981			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED <b>E.E. Conroy</b>		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <b>W.A. RAY</b>	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 2 - Newark 2 - Boston 1 - Capt. <div></div> DIO, 3ND 1 - Col. <div></div> D. of I. 2SC 3 - New York		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>293468 - 1</b> <b>28 MAR 29 1944</b> <b>12/16/92</b> <b>1048/DRM/gtt</b> <b>SE2TAP/CA</b> <b>2/1/90</b> <b>309765</b>	



NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**DETAILS:**

The subject, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, with aliases, is being considered a key figure in the New York Field Division.

Background

GWENDOLYN BENNETT, a negress, claims to have been born in Giddings, Texas on July 8, 1902. A letter received by the New York branch of the Work Projects Administration, Sub-Treasury Building, Pine and Nassau Streets, New York City, from the Health Department at Giddings, Texas, indicates that birth records were not maintained at Giddings until 1903. The subject claims to have moved from Texas eight months after her birth when she went to live in Washington, D. C. After a short time in that city she travelled to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where she spent her youth. In 1916 the subject moved to New York City, and has been a resident of that city for an intermittent period since that time.

In 1927 the subject claims to have married Dr. ALFRED JACKSON, who is now deceased. On June 25, 1940 the subject married RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, a white man, and has lived with him in New York City since that time.

Education

The files of the Work Projects Administration indicate the following information concerning the subject's education and background:

1915 - 1916 Harrisburg High School, Harrisburg, Pa.

1918 Girls' High School, Brooklyn, N. Y.

1921 - 1922 Columbia Teachers College, New York, N. Y.

1922 - 1924 Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y., graduated 1924

September 1924 to June, 1925 Teacher at Howard University

September 1925 to June 1926 Julien Academy, Paris, France

September 1926 to June 1927 Teacher at Howard University

September 1927 to June 1928 Student at Barnes Foundation, Marion, Pa.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

1928 - 1930 Teacher at State Agricultural and Industrial School, Nashville, Tennessee; also a teacher in the Wade County Schools, Florida

Employment

The files of the Work Projects Administration indicate the following employment record of the subject:

1930 Publicity agent - W. C. HANDY PUBLISHING COMPANY

1930--1934 Part-time work - Y.W.C.A.

1935 Writers Project

1935-June 1941 Art project - Work Projects Administration

The subject is presently employed as Director of the George Washington Carver School and teacher at the Jefferson School Of Social Science.

Residences

In addition to having resided at Ciddings, Texas, Washington, D.C., and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in her youth, BENNETT resided for a short time in Paris, France, during 1925 and 1926. Her residences in New York City were as follows:

July 1936 to November 1937 - 321 West 136th St., New York, N. Y.

November 1937 to January 19, 1938 - 250 West 154th St., New York, N. Y.

January 19, 1938 to date - 2 West 120th St., New York, N. Y.

Communist Party Activities and Affiliations

The records of the Work Projects Administration, Division of Investigation, Pine and Nassau Streets, New York City, were examined by the reporting agent and the following information obtained:

On June 19, 1941 the subject was investigated by the Work Projects Administration on the complaint that she had made a false statement in submitting an affidavit, W.P.A. Form 608, stating that she was not a Communist. The file also reflects a letter dated June 3, 1941,

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

from [ ] to [ ] of Investigation, Work Projects Administration, Washington, D. C., to the effect that [ ] felt that the facts in the case warranted prosecution of the subject under Section 80, Title 18, United States Code. A summary of the material contained in this file indicates that the W.P.A. investigators were advised by a former member of the Communist Party, whose identity was not disclosed, that the subject, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, had always been connected with the intellectual group of the Communist Party, and was a close friend of JAMES W. FORD, colored Communist Party Vice-Presidential candidate, and that in 1937 or 1938 she was on a committee of well-known Communists, the purpose of which was to defend Trotsky shootings in Russia. BENNETT was also a member of the Communist Party Publicity Committee for New York District in 1936, 1937 and 1938. Her husband, RICHARD CROSSCUP, was a Communist in 1935, and may still be one.

This file reflects that [ ] the subject of another W.P.A. case, stated, when shown a picture of the subject, that she was known to him as RUTH GALE and had been in the Communist Party movement for some time. In 1934 and 1935 [ ] stated BENNETT was connected with a Communist Party paper in Harlem, name unknown, and was also identified with a Communist Party Club at that time. This W.P.A. file reflects that the subject was a delegate to the National Negro Congress in Philadelphia in 1937 from the American Artists Guild.

Upon being interviewed [ ] [ ] advised Work Projects Administration investigator [ ] that GWENDOLYN BENNETT regularly read the DAILY WORKER and that the subject was President of the Harlem Artists Guild during 1937 and 1938. [ ] admitted accompanying BENNETT to the National Negro Congress in Philadelphia in 1937 and stated that while there BENNETT was very active and lobbied for the Young Communist League in order that its members would be elected to office in the National Negro Congress. Among the Communists GWENDOLYN BENNETT lobbied for were [ ] of the New York City Relief Bureau, [ ] of the Young Communist League, New York City.

When [ ] and Miss BENNETT returned to New York [ ] stated to the W.P.A. Investigator that she overheard BENNETT tell [ ] that she wished to make an oral report of the proceedings of the National Negro Congress at Philadelphia. She told [ ] that the Young



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b6  
b7C

NY 100-56529

Communist League attended 150 strong and ran away with the convention. She said the high light of the convention was the arrival at the convention of WILLIAM L. PATTERSON from Moscow, Russia, and that PATTERSON delivered a message from Moscow to the convention which thrilled BENNETT and other delegates. BENNETT told [ ] that objections to Communists attending the convention were squashed by PATTERSON and other Communists present. [ ] said she never saw the subject speak to PATTERSON either in Philadelphia or New York City, and that [ ] never met him.

At the time of this interview in June, 1941, [ ] claimed that the Harlem Artists Guild, with which GWENDOLYN BENNETT was affiliated, and which is now defunct, was not Communist, but had several Communist sympathizers as members. [ ] further advised that meetings of [ ] were held at their respective homes and Communist Party activities were discussed. Those individuals who attended who were not Communist sympathizers were disgusted. The names of the non-Communist persons attending were not recorded.

The records of the Work Projects Administration reflect that [ ]

[ ] The above mentioned individuals were the active Communists and Communist sympathizers connected with the Art Project which the subject was affiliated with.

This same file reflects that [ ] said that Communist meetings were held in a room [ ] in the [ ] and that she often overheard Communist matters being discussed. Subject BENNETT was in charge of this project and was continually going in and out of these meetings while they were in progress. [ ] and GWENDOLYN BENNETT tried to put pressure on [ ] to either join the Communist Party or leave the Harlem project.

At a party given in the [ ] honor at the home of [ ] BENNETT attended with [ ]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CH 1.3  
2

b6  
b7C

NY 100-56529

a [ ] named [ ] and endeavored to interest the guests in the "Better Russian negro film movement". [ ]

[ ] was interviewed by W.P.A. Investigator and could not recall the discussion of a better Russian film movement, but he did recall that BENNETT suggested that a party be given for her friend, PAUL ROBESON. The party was never given.

[ ] advised she could not say whether the subject was a Communist or not, but she did know that the subject was a Communist sympathizer, and that the Harlem Art Center was over-run with Communists and Communist Party activities. She further stated that BENNETT was definitely partial to all Communist Party members.

The Work Projects Administration file further reflects that the subject was chairman and sponsor of the Negro Playwrights Company, Inc., which produced the Communist play BIG WHITE FOG at the Lincoln Theatre in Harlem in 1940. The subject was very friendly with RICHARD WRIGHT and PAUL ROBESON. The file also reflects that BENNETT campaigned in Pittsburgh for JAMES FORD, colored Vice-Presidential candidate, during the election of 1940.

and [ ] were interviewed by W.P.A. investigators regarding Communist activities of the subject, with negative results.

[ ] stated that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was reputed to be a Communist.

a member of the Communist Party Harlem section from March 10, 1936 to October, 1938, when he resigned, stated that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was reputed to be a Communist.

[ ] former member of the Communist Party, from 1929 to 1936, and member of the Central Committee of the Young Communist League, testified before the Woodrum Committee that the subject, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, attended a dinner given in honor of FORD, Communist Vice-Presidential candidate, at which BENNETT was seated next to EARL BROWDER and ROBERT MINOR. [ ] also stated that [ ] for whom GWENDOLYN BENNETT lobbied at the National Negro Congress, has been a high-ranking Communist Party member since 1935.

[ ] no residence

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

b6  
b7C

given, who is affiliated with the NEW YORK AMSTERDAM STAR NEWS, said he believed GWENDOLYN BENNETT was one of a group of negroes who went to Russia in 1931 or 1932 to make negro film. He was unable to state definitely whether BENNETT was a Communist.

[redacted]  
[redacted] of the NEW YORK AMSTERDAM STAR NEWS, said GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a Communist Party sympathizer and that the play BIG WHITE FOG with which she was affiliated was definitely Communistic.

[redacted] news correspondent residing at [redacted] said that GWENDOLYN BENNETT is accepted in Harlem, associated with and sympathetic with activities which have been considered Communistic.

[redacted] "New York Age" employee, who has known BENNETT for ten years, stated she has a reputation of being a Communist in Harlem. [redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted] at the NEW YORK AGE, 230 West 135th Street, New York City, said that she had known BENNETT for years and that she is regarded as a Communist.

[redacted] at the NEW YORK AGE, 230 West 135th Street, New York City, stated he heard rumors to the effect that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a Communist and had been removed as a teacher at Howard University because of some scandal in which she became involved.

The above-mentioned file reflects that a former member of the Communist Party advised W.P.A. investigators that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a member of the Communist Party Publicity Committee for New York District in 1936, 1937 and part of 1938.

[redacted]  
[redacted] is a friend of the subject.  
[redacted]  
[redacted] of the City of New York on the Communist Party ticket.

BENNETT is also a close friend of [redacted] writer

NY 100-56529

b6  
b7C

for COLLIER'S Magazine, known to be a Communist, who writes for the Party under the pen name of [REDACTED]

RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, the subject's husband, was a member of the Communist Party in 1935, and is very friendly with CYRIL BRIGGS, a staff member of the DAILY WORKER. A former Communist Party member advised W.P.A. agents that CROSSCUP has been seen in the Communist Party offices on 13th Street and at the Workers Book Shop as recently as 1938. CROSSCUP is a personal friend of [REDACTED]

The W.P.A. file reflects the following investigation was conducted by the Pittsburgh Branch of the Work Projects Administration:

[REDACTED] identified a picture of the subject as the person who spoke at a meeting of the Communist Party during the fall of 1939. This meeting was held at the Northside Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh. [REDACTED] said that he read in the local DAILY WORKER that BENNETT again spoke at a Communist Party meeting at the Northside Carnegie Library in November, 1940.

[REDACTED] of the FREDIANI PRINTING COMPANY, 71 Elm Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, stated that during the election of 1940 he printed 15,000 four-page leaflets for the Communist Party, which referred to a meeting at the Northside Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh on behalf of JAMES W. FORD, colored Communist. [REDACTED] also printed a DAILY WORKER western Pennsylvania edition for the Communist Party, with the permission of the DAILY WORKER of New York. This was in 1940. [REDACTED] was unable to furnish any literature regarding this meeting, or the Worker Edition that he published.

The following investigation was conducted by the Work Projects Administration office of the Boston, Massachusetts area:

Examination of the files of the Massachusetts State Department of Safety and the Boston City Police Department as of May 28, 1941 failed to reveal any information concerning the activities of RICHARD B. CROSSCUP or GWENDOLYN BENNETT. The FBI records in the Boston Field Office were also checked with negative results.

Information was revealed which alleged that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was affiliated with a Communist organization in Boston known as the Great Pacific Movement.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

On April 26, 1941 subject GWENDOLYN BENNETT was requested to appear before the New York Work Projects Administration for questioning regarding her Communist Party affiliations. She advised the W.P.A. at that time that she would only appear under the following circumstances:

1. If she was given a copy of the charges made against her.
2. That all accusers be made to make their accusations in person.
3. That investigations of the case be confined to circumstances connected with the charges.
4. That she receive a transcript of the proceedings of the interviews relative to the case.

b6  
b7C

Her demands were denied but she was advised that she would be permitted to have her attorney present during the interview. On June 4, 1941 the subject appeared with her attorney, [redacted] at the New York Office of the Work Projects Administration. Upon being questioned the subject denied she was ever a member of the Communist Party and that she had ever lobbied for the Young Communist League or any other Communist organization. She denied that she did publicity work for the Communist Party, or any Communist organization. She denied she was ever in Pittsburgh or had ever spoken on behalf of a Communist candidate or for a Communist Party cause. She denied ever having been connected with any committee for the purpose of ~~aiding~~ Russia or the Trotsky shootings in Russia. She denied that she ever wrote under a pen name or that she ever read Communist literature. She denied she was friendly with RICHARD WRIGHT or JAMES W. FORD, negro Communist. She refused to answer when asked if she was present at a dinner given for FORD and sat at the speakers' table with EARL BROWDER and ROBERT MINOR. She refused to answer when questions regarding her presence at the National Negro Congress Convention in Philadelphia were directed to her, or whether she had submitted a report regarding Communist Party activities at the Convention. BENNETT also refused to answer any questions as to her interest in the Russian negro film movement. She refused to answer the question as to whether she read the DAILY WORKER. The subject refused to say whether she was present at a banquet in honor of [redacted] an exile. She declared the National Negro Playwrights Company, Inc. used her name without permission. She also claimed her poems appeared in the DAILY WORKER without her consent. She stated she never saw WILLIAM PATTERSON, Communist Party candidate for Congress, but knew his wife. When asked if she knew LOUISE THOMPSON, wife of WILLIAM



b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

NY 100-56529

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
PATTERSON, she refused to say whether she knew her. The subject refused to answer the question "RICHARD CROSSCUP - is that your husband's original name?" She refused to answer the question "Was your husband's name RICHARD BECK/CROSSCUP?" She refused to answer the question "Does your husband live in New York City with you?" She claimed to have never used any name but GWENDOLYN BENNETT, JACKSON, or CROSSCUP. She claimed to have never been in Russia at any time.

\_\_\_\_\_ of the Division of Investigation, Work Projects Administration, advised the reporting agent that Investigator \_\_\_\_\_ handled the case of GWENDOLYN BENNETT and was in a better position to furnish additional information regarding her. \_\_\_\_\_ was not available at that time and will be contacted by the reporting agent at a later date.

The files of the W.P.A. reflect that on December 13, 1941 \_\_\_\_\_ Assistant Commissioner, Work Projects Administration, wrote to \_\_\_\_\_ W.P.A. Administrator, New York City, clearing the subject's records of charges of Communism on the grounds of insufficient evidence, and making her eligible for reinstatement and further employment on W.P.A. projects.

\_\_\_\_\_

The records of Special Squad No. 1, New York City Police Department, 400 Broome Street, New York City, reflected that GWENDOLYN BENNETT is a teacher of "Life and culture of the negro people" and "Art and the People" at the School For Democracy, 13 Astor Place, New York City. This was on January 26, 1942. She was also Director of the Harlem Community Art Center, 125th Street and Lenox Avenue, New York City. In July and August, 1943, the subject taught the summer school session of the School For Democracy. Her course was painting and drawing for amateurs.

The file further reflects that the subject is presently teaching Art, History and Appreciation at the Thomas Jefferson School of Social Science. The file reflects a newspaper clipping from the NEW YORK AGE dated January 10, 1942 in which GWENDOLYN BENNETT was cleared of charges of subversive activity and reinstated on the Work Projects Administration. At the hearing Miss BENNETT was represented by \_\_\_\_\_ Attorney for the Joint Committee To Defend W.P.A. Workers..

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The records of the Bureau of Criminal Identification, 9th floor, 400 Broome Street, New York City, were also checked but failed to reveal any information not previously reported.

Lieutenant [redacted] 6th Detective District, 229 West 123rd Street, New York City, advised the writer that the subject is believed to be a Communist and is married to one of his air raid wardens, RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, a teacher in his air raid warden school. Lieutenant [redacted] was unable to furnish any additional information concerning the subject other than the fact that she was Director of the George Washington Carver School.

The Selective Service record of the subject's husband, RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, was checked at the Selective Service Board No. 55, 307 Lenox Avenue, New York City. CROSSCUP'S serial number is 3246 and his order number is 2389. He was born in Boston, Massachusetts, July 24, 1905, and is presently employed by the Walden School, 1 West 88th Street, New York City. He and his wife, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, operate a summer camp at Port Murray, New Jersey, which is known as Camp Wo-Chi-Ca. CROSSCUP and his wife reside at 2 West 120th Street, New York City. In 1929 CROSSCUP left the country and was issued Passport No. 84756. His destination was not revealed. He has been placed in Class 1AH as of July 24, 1943 because of his age.

The Selective Service file reflects a letter from RICHARD B. CROSSCUP to the Board dated April 20, 1942, in which he claims that his mother, LILLIAN A. CROSSCUP, age-70 years, was living with him at that time. He also states that his wife, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was employed at \$125. a month as a teacher in the School For Democracy, 13 Astor Place, New York City. CROSSCUP is Assistant Deputy Zone Warden, Precinct 28, Zone 1, New York City. He claims to have been a teacher since 1933. He lists relatives as follows:

Mother, LILLIAN A. CROSSCUP, 1085 Boylston St., Boston, Mass.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] whose identity is known



b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
NY 100-56529

to the Bureau, was contacted regarding the subject and RICHARD B. CROSSCUP. He stated that he believed that both of them were active in Communist circles but that he would obtain additional information concerning their present Communist Party affiliations.

(U) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity is also known to the Bureau, advised the writer that he had known the subject for some time and that he believed her to be a member of the Communist Party. He expected to have close contacts with the subject some time in the future and hoped to be able to provide this office with additional information concerning her.

A review of the file of the DAILY WORKER indicates numerous references to the subject, all of which have been covered in this report.

A review of the files of this office indicates a newspaper article published in the New York WORLD TELEGRAM of November 16, 1943, which revealed the George Washington Carver School as a "Red negro ruse". A summary of the information in the article is as follows:

A new people's institution named the George Washington Carver School has been organized in Harlem with strong Communist backing in a propaganda bid for interest among negroes. One of its directors and chief backers is BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR., Communist functionary, whose election to City Council the WORLD TELEGRAM disclosed the week previous to instant article followed the Communist strategy of exploiting national, racial and religious feelings. At the opening of the institute, which is located at 57 West 125th Street, the DAILY WORKER, Communist Party organ, hailed the event as a major happening in Harlem. The head of the school, Dr. MAX YERGAN, is one of the country's foremost negro leaders of Communist causes, and is president of the National Negro Congress. GWENDOLYN BENNETT, who recently resigned from

100-56529

teaching at the School For Democracy, has been appointed Director of the new school. According to the article, the school is recognized by the thinking people of Harlem as a Communist attempt to exploit CARVER.

The files of this office further reflect that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a teacher of a course given at the School For Democracy, 13 Astor Place, New York City, in the winter term, January to March, 1943, entitled "Life and Culture of the Negro People". The subject is also listed in the files of the New York Office as being a teacher at the summer School For Democracy at Arcadia, Fishkill, New York. This organization is conducted by the School For Democracy, 13 Astor Place, New York City.

The files reflect that the subject spoke at a cultural group meeting at the Edison Hall, 228 West 47th Street, New York City, on Sunday, December 4, 1943. The subject of this course was "Contributions Of The Negro To American Art And Culture". Dr. YERGAN served as chairman. The file also reflects an article taken from the PEOPLE'S VOICE of November 27, 1943, concerning the George Washington Carver School, in which GWENDOLYN BENNETT, Director of the Carver School, stated "This is an educational institution which we are building to meet the needs of the people of Harlem. A carefully chosen curriculum committee from the Board of Directors will organize the educational program, changing and modifying the courses offered as our experience with the community dictates the need for change. The courses to be offered will be planned in keeping with the best educational principles at all times".

A catalogue of the Jefferson School of Social Science, winter term 1944, reflects the following information regarding the subject:

B.S. in Fine Arts, Columbia University, New York City.

Fellowships at Academie Julien, Paris, France

Barnes Foundation, Merion, Pennsylvania.

Taught Art at Howard University

Former Director of Harlem Community Art Center

Director of George Washington Carver School

The original directors of the George Washington Carver School are as follows:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED] BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR., Judge  
HUBERT T. DELANEY, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] CANADA LEE, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Reverend ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR., [REDACTED] PAUL ROBESON.  
FERDINAND C. SMITH, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and  
Dr. MAX YERGAN.

On March 10, 1944 a mail cover was placed on the subject and RICHARD B. CROSSCUP at their residence, 2 West 120th Street, New York City. As yet no information has been received through this source.

A copy of the subject's picture was obtained during the course of the investigation, and will be made a part of the 1A file of instant case.

The following description of GWENDOLYN BENNETT was obtained during the course of investigation:

Date and place of birth:	Giddings, Texas, July 8, 1902
Age:	42 years
Race:	Negress
Complexion:	Medium brown
Height:	5'
Weight:	185 lbs.
Build:	Heavy
Color of hair:	Black, cut short
Color of eyes:	Brown
Shape of face:	Round
Teeth:	White and even
Occupation:	Artist, teacher, Director of George Washington Carver School
Marital status:	Married
Remarks:	Occasionally wears rimless glasse has pleasant disposition, and always appears smiling and good humoured.

6/24/44

P E N D I N G

NY 100-56529

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEWARK FIELD DIVISION

At Port Murray, N. J.

Will attempt to ascertain whether Camp Wo-Chi-Ca at Port Murray is a Communist Camp and will report any present activities on the part of the subject or her husband, RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, in that area.

BOSTON FIELD DIVISION

At Boston, Mass.

Will report any pertinent information concerning the subject's husband, RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, which may be contained in divorce decree 16944, Probate Court, Massachusetts.

Will, if possible, interview the former wife of CROSSCUP for any information concerning CROSSCUP or BENNETT.

Will obtain any information as to CROSSCUP'S affiliations at Boston University, where he received an M.A. Degree in 1940.

Will report all information contained in the files of the Boston Office regarding BENNETT or her husband.

At Cambridge, Mass.

Will obtain any information as to CROSSCUP'S Communist affiliations at Harvard University, where he was graduated with an A.B. Degree in 1927.

Will contact the proper authorities at Cambridge School for any information concerning RICHARD CROSSCUP, who is believed to have been a teacher at that school for about eight years.

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At New York, N. Y.

Will contact [ ] Work Projects Administration Investigator, Sub-Treasury Building, third floor, Pine and Nassau Streets, who handled the investigation of the subject, and obtain any additional information concerning her Communist activities.

b6  
b7C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

Will recontact confidential informants of the New York Office in an attempt to ascertain the present activities of the subject and her husband.

Will continue additional investigation in the New York area concerning the subject's Communist Party affiliations and activities.

Will report the results of the mail cover placed on the subject and her husband at their residence, 2 West 120th Street, New York City.

→ 9 vcox! (SD)

NY 100-56529

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants referred to in the report  
of Special Agent [redacted] dated at New York, N. Y. March 23, 1944  
are identified as follows:

[Redacted box]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/15/92 BY 1048-DK2/jt

ENCLOSURE



100-293468-3



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300.

--1--Enclosures for --Bureau--Office

Re. NEW YORK FILE NO. 100-56529

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 12/15/92 BY 1048/DAW/jt

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
New York, New York

JJM:HGF  
100-56529

April 21, 1944

Director, FBI

Re: GWENDOLYN BENNETT  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

*md*  
A photograph of the above captioned subject, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, obtained by this office, is being forwarded to the Bureau as an enclosure. The picture in question is for inclusion in the subject's case file at the Bureau.

Additional copies of the photograph are being retained in the proper case file in this office.

Very truly yours,

*E. E. Conroy*  
E. E. CONROY  
SAC

Enc.

*attached  
ENCL 1*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12-29-92 BY 1048/DKM/glt



32 MAY 2 1944

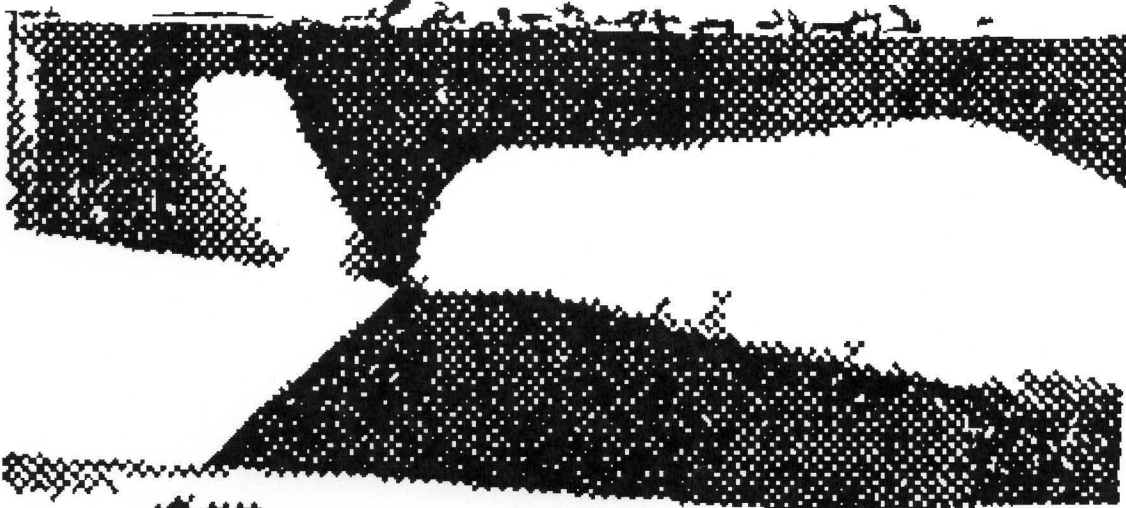
RECORDED

EX-16

100-293468-3

F B I  
22 APR 24 1944

*File*



HR:ZMN

NOT RECORDED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

May 5, 1944

100-293468

Special Agent in Charge  
New York, New York

RE SECURITY MATTER

Dear Sir

Please be advised that a security index card has been prepared at the Bureau, captioned as follows

**BENNETT, GWENDOLYN**  
with aliases

NATIVE BORN

COMMUNIST

Mrs. Gwendolyn Bennett Crosscup  
Mrs. Gwendolyn Bennett Jackson  
Mrs. Albert Jackson  
Ruth Gale

2 West 120th St.,  
New York, New York (Res.)

George Washington Carver School  
57 W. 125th St.,  
New York, New York (Bus.)

DECLASSIFIED BY 1042/DK/lt  
ON 12/15/92

The above caption should be checked immediately for accuracy against the information contained in your files, and the Bureau should be informed of any discrepancies. You will prepare without delay a 5" x 8" white card captioned as above and reflecting your investigative case file number for filing in your Confidential Security Index Card File. In the event the above caption is not correct, the card you prepare should be correctly captioned, and the Bureau should be informed of the correct caption.

The caption of the card prepared and filed in your Office must be kept current at all times and the Bureau immediately advised of any changes made therein in that connection.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAIL

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Humphord \_\_\_\_\_  
Jones \_\_\_\_\_  
Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

b6  
b7C

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK

FILE NO 100-14816 md

REPORT MADE AT BOSTON, MASS.	DATE WHEN MADE 5/30/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/8,9,12,20/44	REPORT MADE BY <div></div>
TITLE GWENDOLYN BENNETT with aliases Gwendolyn Bennett Crosscup, Mrs. Alfred Jackson, Gwendolyn Bennett Jackson, Ruth Gale			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

Richard Beck Crosscup was married June 16, 1930 and granted a divorce decree May 29, 1936 charged with cruel and abusive treatment. Two children were born to the marriage.

Crosscup was born July 24, 1905 at Dorchester, Massachusetts, graduated from Harvard University cum laude in 1927 receiving an AB degree and Boston University School of Education, Summer sessions, 1940 cum laude. In 1931 he worked as a janitor for the church and bank receiving \$40 per month until hired by  of Boston University to work for him personally on research work and writing at \$60 per month.  secured a tutoring job for Crosscup, paying him \$90 per month. In 1934  secured a position for Crosscup with  of the Cambridge Upper School at Weston, Massachusetts, in charge of  program. Crosscup was active in the Trade Union Movement as a member of a teachers' union and served as a delegate to the Boston Central Labor Union, State Federation of Labor Convention. Crosscup is described as very independent, has his own opinion of things and will express them regardless of to whom he may be talking, has his own philosophy on life to the extent of sharing his wife and marrying a colored woman. Informants have no knowledge that he was connected with the Communist Party this area. All the ideas he had on life were his own based on information received. It was deemed impractical to interview Crosscup's former wife. No information concerning subject in Boston file.

COPIES DESTROYED

R130 JAN 25 1961

-R U C-

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <div></div>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 100-14816-5 15 JUN 1 1944		RECORDED & INDEXED EX-18
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau COPY IN FILE 2 New York 1 Capt. <div></div> DIO 3ND 1 Colonel <div></div> D of I 2 SC 3 Boston				

55 OCT 7 1944

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated New York,  
March 23, 1944

DETAILS: The subject Gwendolyn Bennett with aliases is being considered  
a key figure in the New York Field Division.

The writer checked the records of the Massachusetts Probate Court, Pemberton Square, Boston, Massachusetts, and reviewed the divorce decree #16944, involving [redacted] and Richard Beck Crosscup. According to the record, the couple was married June 16, 1930 and [redacted] filed for a divorce against Richard B. Crosscup for cruel and abusive treatment March 16, 1936. The final decree was granted May 29, 1936. The divorce was uncontested by the husband Richard Crosscup. They list the following [redacted]  
[redacted] The attorney for the  
libelant was [redacted]

The writer reviewed the subject's record at the registrar's office at Harvard University, Cambridge, and ascertained that he was born July 24, 1905 at Dorchester, Massachusetts, his father's name being Louis Edwin Crosscup and his mother's name being Lillian Campbell Crosscup. He graduated from Quincy High School and Thayer Academy where he completed four years undergraduate literary work. He graduated from Harvard College in 1927 magna cum laude.

A review of the Professors and advisers was made by the writer and upon inquiry of [redacted] was advised that his adviser is deceased and there is no one presently teaching at the college who would know the subject.

She referred the writer to the Decennial Report for 1937 which would be the subject's own account of his activity for ten years following his graduation from Harvard. The report was reviewed by the writer and it was found that the subject had the following to say:

Occupation - teacher, Cambridge School, Kendall Green, Massachusetts  
Married - June 1930, divorced  
Children - Martha, born 6/13/31

The report continues: "During the fall and winter of 1930 I dug clams for a living in Maine. In the spring and summer of 1931 I did statistical work for an investment counselor and was also engaged in tutoring. I took a partnership in a school but the school failed. In the fall of 1931 and also of 1934 I worked as janitor of a church and of a bank. Since 1934 I have been in charge of the remedial program of the Cambridge School, Kendall Green, Massachusetts. I received my training at Boston University School of Education. I am presently active in a local trade union movement as a member of a teachers'



union. I served as delegate to the Boston Central Labor Union, State Federation of Labor and I am on the editorial staff of the American Teacher, the official magazine of the American Federation of Teachers.

The writer reviewed the subject's file at Boston University School of Education and ascertained that the subject first entered Boston University in 1933, and attended the summer classes off and on and finally graduated August 10, 1940, receiving an M. E. degree cum laude. [redacted]  
[redacted]

The writer interviewed [redacted] who advised that he was very well acquainted with the subject. [redacted] stated that he met the subject for the first time when he filed an application for entrance to the school of education. [redacted] stated that he had the necessary qualifications to enter the school but was lacking in funds. According to [redacted] Crosscup was very careless about his dress and at the first meeting with [redacted] Crosscup was badly in need of a haircut, had a soiled shirt, no tie and made a very poor impression. At that time Crosscup was working as janitor in a church and a bank receiving \$40 a month. [redacted] stated that he talked to Crosscup and told him he had the ability to write for magazines but Crosscup was not interested. [redacted] advised the writer that in viewing his record he knew the subject was clever and therefore hired him personally to do work for him and write articles. [redacted] paid Crosscup \$60 per month.

During his employment [redacted] secured a tutoring job for the subject, paying him \$90 per month. As explained by [redacted] Crosscup was up in the big money now, something that he was not interested in and so Crosscup hired another student to prepare his tutoring work for him, paying him for his work. [redacted] stated that Crosscup wrote many fine articles which [redacted] later sold for a considerable sum.

[redacted] was responsible for securing a position with [redacted] of the Cambridge Upper School, Weston, Massachusetts, for Crosscup.

[redacted] stated that Crosscup was very polite and a likable chap but had a very odd way of looking at life. For example, [redacted] came from a very low type family and the subject feeling sorry for the girl married her, and at the same time he himself not being in a position to support two people. [redacted] was artistically inclined and becoming dissatisfied after their marriage decided to go to New York to secure employment as an artist. She stayed in New York for one year, returning to Crosscup with a man by the name of [redacted] on the WFA. Crosscup accepted the two into his home and the three lived together until the arrival of the second child. According to [redacted] this was the cause of the divorce. The attitude adopted by Crosscup was if she prefers [redacted] over me I will divorce her. This was agreed upon by [redacted] and Crosscup and accordingly [redacted] divorced Crosscup, the same being uncontested and later



[redacted]

[redacted] said Crosscup is a very convincing speaker and after listening to him on his ideas of life one will wonder who is crazy Crosscup or the listener

[redacted] stated it is his understanding that Crosscup is now married to a negress which does not surprise [redacted] knowing Crosscup as he does.

According to [redacted] Crosscup had no connection with the Communist Party in this area, however, he admits that Crosscup's philosophy is the same as that practiced by the Communist Party but they are strictly his own ideas. He believed in organized labor and was one of the members of the American Federation of Teachers in this district. About 1935 he tried to interest [redacted] in joining the union but [redacted] refused and no further pressure was brought by Crosscup. [redacted] stated that [redacted] had the same idea on life as Crosscup and talked on a very highly intellectual level but maintained a very low level.

[redacted] stated that in view of the fact that [redacted] is of the same type as crosscup he is very doubtful whether anything would be gained by talking to her as it would not surprise him if Crosscup should return and [redacted]

The writer interviewed [redacted] Cambridge Upper School, Weston, Massachusetts, who advised that the subject became employed at his school as head of the Remedial program from September 1935 to June 1940, five school years. He described Crosscup as "a very independent cuss," very intellectual and a man who has the idea that the world is against him. He explained this by stating that Crosscup's father was a well-to-do man but lost his money and consequently Crosscup had to struggle to secure his education and figured that the world was against him all the way. He was interested in a teachers' union and active in the Teachers' Union located in Boston, Massachusetts, but never attempted to recruit any other teachers at the school.

If he wanted to talk about labor Crosscup would express his ideas regardless of who may be listening. [redacted] stated that Crosscup's economic ideas were on the Communist angle but he was not known to have any party affiliations.

[redacted] stated that Crosscup was very honest, had his own opinions and expressed them.

[redacted] had much the same idea of the subject's philosophy of life as that expressed by [redacted]

[redacted] stated that he knew [redacted] but had very little respect for [redacted] lived so to speak in the clouds,

MAP. 3

b6  
b7C

[redacted]  
[redacted] stated that Crosscup left his employment with him of his own accord and the circumstances surrounding his leaving are an interesting point.

[redacted] stated that at the conclusion of the school year the faculty produces a play for the benefit of the children in which all the faculty take part. Crosscup wrote the play that was produced by the faculty one year and it was a very splendid job. About the same time Crosscup became acquainted with a young musician and based on the success Crosscup had in writing the school play he had the idea that he would become a success in writing musical comedies and accordingly the young musician and Crosscup went to New York to crash Broadway. *will "Crash Broadway"*

[redacted] stated that Crosscup was smart enough to realize that he would have to maintain himself while in New York and secured a position as teacher at the Walden School in New York City as a grade school teacher. He taught the seventh or eighth grade. His only reason for accepting this position was for living expenses while he was making preparations to crash Broadway.

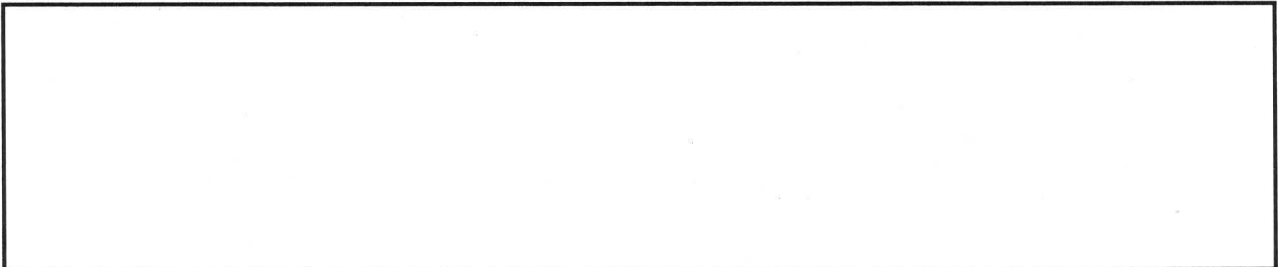
[redacted] shared the thoughts of [redacted] in connection with [redacted] that [redacted] ideas of life that it would be just as well to talk to Crosscup himself.

[redacted] stated that Crosscup had [redacted]  
[redacted]

Based on the information received from [redacted] and [redacted] it was deemed impractical to interview [redacted]  
[redacted]

A check of the indices of the Boston office fails to reveal any information concerning the subject Gwendolyn Bennett.

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D



No record was contained in the Boston indices on James Pfeiffer.

•REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Will contact the proper authorities at the Walden School, New York City for any further information concerning Richard Crosscup's activities while teaching at this school.

\*REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN-

b2  
b6  
b7C

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

[redacted] is the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Boston, Massachusetts, December 17, 1941 entitled American Youth Congress, pages six and one hundred thirty.

-REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN-

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

FILE NO **100-27217** **EMW**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEWARK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>5-11-44</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>4-14-44</b>	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
TITLE <b>GWENDOLYN BENNETT, WAS.</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY (C)</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS**

Investigation at Port Murray reveals subject known only by name, with no knowledge of subject's husband, **RICHARD B. CROSSCUP**. Subject not known to be manager of Camp Wo-Chi-Ca. Camp Wo-Chi-Ca described as a Communist camp. Confidential Informant [ ] advises "DAILY WORKER" addressed to Camp Wo-Chi-Ca during summer periods. [ ] believed to be [ ] as Camp Wo-Chi-Ca. Information determined from State Police to the effect that Camp Wo-Chi-Ca located in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County, mail address R.D. 1, Port Murray, New Jersey.

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

- R U C -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/15/92 BY 1048/DKM/gjt

**REFERENCE:**

Report of SA [ ] dated 3-23-44  
at New York, New York.

**DETAILS:**

Information determined from Confidential Informant [ ] was to the effect that Camp Wo-Chi-Ca is located at R.F.D. 1, Port Murray, New Jersey. Confidential Informant [ ] advised that he was not familiar with the subject of instant case, except that he did recall [ ] having come addressed to a party by the name of BENNETT. As far as he could ascertain and recall, the name of RICHARD B. CROSSCUP was unfamiliar.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<b>COPIES DESTROYED</b> <b>80 JAN 25 1961</b> COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 3 - New York 1 - Capt. [ ] DIO, 3ND (CONFIDENTIAL) 1 - Col. [ ] DSI, 2SC (CONFIDENTIAL) 1 - Boston (info) 2 - Newark COPY IN FILE		100-27217-4 <b>25 MAY 16 1944</b>	RECORDED INDEXED

NK 100-27217

[redacted] advised that this camp opens approximately around June 1 of each year and that its activities cease about Labor Day. He further advised that [redacted] and that her name was [redacted] and that she had come from New York, address unknown, a short time ago and [redacted] as Camp Wo-Chi-Ca. As far as was known by [redacted] of Camp Wo-Chi-Ca.

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that he had heard very little about Camp Wo-Chi-Ca, inasmuch as it was located approximately ten miles from Port Murray, and that the shopping centers of Washington, New Jersey and Hackettstown, New Jersey would obviate the necessity of having the people use Port Murray as a business town. He did recall one incident, however, in which a truck driver whose name he did not know stopped at the [redacted] and asked him what kind of camp it was. When the truck driver was asked the reason for this, he stated he had a desire to place his son in a summer camp, and that upon investigation of Camp Wo-Chi-Ca, he found that it was "a damn Communist camp."

The New Jersey State Police Sub-station located at Washington, New Jersey was contacted by the reporting agent for information relative to Camp Wo-Chi-Ca. They advised that under date of October 2, 1941, an investigation had been conducted by them concerning the camp. The following is substantially the information obtained by their investigation.

Camp Wo-Chi-Ca is also known as Pleasant Grove Acres and is situated on the Califon-Pleasant Grove Road in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County, R.D. 1, Port Murray, New Jersey. A contact with farmers living in and near the camp determined that Camp Wo-Chi-Ca was a Communist camp from New York City and consists of people of all races and creeds. At the present time the camp was closed for the winter season, and [redacted]

The name of [redacted] arose in connection with the camp as [redacted] It was learned that [redacted] had left a forwarding address care of [redacted] Information was obtained from Tax Collector of Lebanon Township to the effect that taxes on the camp were paid by a [redacted]

The following men are listed as camp directors:

[redacted]



NK 100-27217

[REDACTED]

Two other individuals connected with the camp by the name of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were mentioned in the investigation, but addresses were not obtained. Nowhere in connection with the investigation of the camp did the name of the subject or RICHARD B. CROSSCUP arise. They are not known in the vicinity.

Inasmuch as Camp Wo-Chi-Ca is not being operated at the present time and inasmuch as no further background information is available concerning the subject and persons mentioned in this report, this case is being considered referred upon completion to the office of origin. In the event it is desired that a further check be made at a later date during the time of operation of Camp Wo-Chi-Ca, the Newark Field Division will conduct such investigation upon receipt of information from the New York Field Division.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

NK 100-27217

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS



A copy of this report is being designated for the Boston Field Division for their information in conducting investigation within that territory.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FILE NO

100-56529 EN

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 8/22/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/19, 26; 7/20, 27; 8/1-3, 14, 16/44	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
TITLE GWENDOLYN BENNETT, with aliases  DECLASSIFIED BY 60324 auc baw/cpb/kj ON 03-07-2007			CHARACTER OF CASE  INTERNAL SECURITY-C

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS**

[redacted] advised that subject was a member of the Communist Party and that about 1939 she attended a communist school located near Kingston, New York, [redacted]

[redacted] Subject's activities at present consist solely in directing the affairs of the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL of which the subject is the director. [redacted] advised that at the present time the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL does not appear to be very active and may be in poor financial condition. On May 21, 1944, the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL held "I AM AN AMERICAN DAY" program in Harlem; about 12,000 people attended; approximately \$900 collected, and the Reverend CLAYTON POWELL, Jr., [redacted] "THE RACES OF MANKIND", MAX YERGAN and CANADA LEE spoke.

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

- P -

**REFERENCE:**

Bureau File 100-293468.  
Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated March 23, 1944, at New York.

**DETAILS:**

AT NEW YORK CITY,

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE~~

**COPIES DESTROYED  
180 JAN 25 1961**

Thirty-day mail cover placed on subject and her husband RICHARD B. CROSSCUP at their residence, 2 West 120 Street, failed to produce any information of value.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>E. E. Conroy</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT (5) Bureau 1 Col. [redacted] D. of I., 2 SC 1 Capt. [redacted] DIO, 3 ND 3 New York 317 COPY IN FILE		RECORDED & INDEXED 32	6
		<del>CONFIDENTIAL</del>	

30 OCT 11 1944

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Confidential Informant [ ] whose identity is known to the Bureau, advised the writer that [ ] that she was definitely a member of the Communist Party. He stated that he distinctly remembers seeing the subject about 1939 when she attended a communist school located near Kingston, New York. [ ] According to the informant, this school was located on a farm near Kingston and was the gathering place for the intellectuals of the Communist Party.

Confidential Informant [ ] was not sure but believed GWENDOLYN BENNETT traveled to Moscow during a summer vacation around 1937 or 1938. According to [ ] the subject is also friendly with [ ]

[ ] of Camp WO-CHI-CA (Workers' Children Camp), as well as [ ] the Camp and [ ] same address as [ ] the Camp and [ ]

Confidential Informant [ ] advised the reporting agent

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

(U)

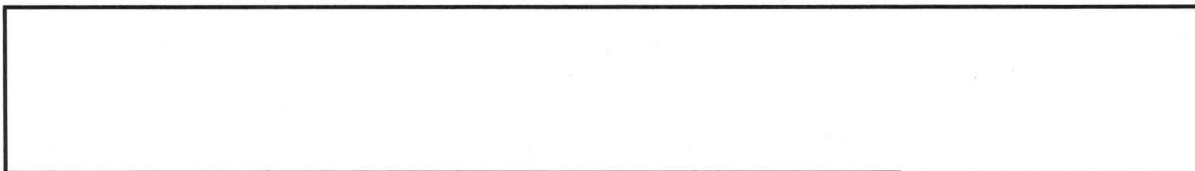
(U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b2  
b7D

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



a meeting of the  
GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL on Sunday afternoon, May 21 at 3:00  
o'clock at the Golden Gate Ballroom, 142nd Street and Lenox Avenue. The  
affair was a FOLK FESTIVAL celebrating I AM AN AMERICAN DAY. The pro-  
gram obtained by the informant is set out below:

" THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
of the  
GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL

cordially invites you to attend a

FOLK FESTIVAL

celebrating

I AM AN AMERICAN DAY

on

Sunday, Afternoon, May Twenty-First  
at three o'clock

at the

GOLDEN GATE BALLROOM  
142nd Street and Lenox Ave.,  
New York

Reserved Seats: \$2.00, \$1.20  
General Admission: 60 cents  
Tax included on all tickets.

PAGE 2

"In time of war the songs of the people rally the spirits of  
those who fight against Fascism for a free world. In time of  
peace the songs and dances of the different nations are the

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"warp and woof around which the people's culture is woven and made strong. Mindful of this, the George Washington Carver School takes this opportunity, through their songs and dances, to pay tribute to the Allied Nations and the oppressed peoples of the earth who are giving their lives today that we may live in a better world. Any patriotic celebration of the American people must take into consideration the varied streams of culture that have flowed into our Nation. Any concept of peace must take note of the need for cooperation among all peoples, here and abroad. The future of our Nation will be secure only through the full participation of all its people--Negro and white, Jew and Gentile, Protestant and Catholic, native and foreign-born.

"The foremost leaders of the Allied Nations have declared their intention to fight in unison for the elimination of Fascism from the face of the earth and to work in unified cooperation for a lasting peace. Here at home such unison and cooperation must be the core of our war effort and the unqualified goal of our peace. Unity is the precept around which our American ideals were built and must be maintained. It is in this spirit that we celebrate I Am An American Day by presenting a folk festival around the theme: 'UNITED, WE MARCH FORWARD AS ONE NATION!'"

PAGE 3

"PROGRAM

b6  
b7C

INVOCATION

[REDACTED]

NATIONAL ANTHEM

GROUP SINGERS:

Hall Johnson Choir, Finnish Women's Choir, Chinese People's Chorus

SOLOISTS:

[REDACTED]

South American Folk Songs  
Czechoslovakian Folk Songs

[REDACTED]

of the Czechoslovak Choral Society of N. Y.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED]

Flamenco Songs  
Russian Songs  
Soloist with Chinese  
People's Chorus

DANCERS:

[REDACTED]

The Negro Speaks of  
Rivers  
Poem by Langston Hughes  
Music by [REDACTED]  
Recitation by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of the Martha Graham  
Dancers

[REDACTED]

Harmonica Breakdown  
Haitian Dance

[REDACTED]

Comedian from Cafe Society Uptown

[REDACTED]

Boogie-Woogie Pianist

b6  
b7C

All-Star Quartette:

[REDACTED]

from Cafe Society Uptown  
from The Three Deuces  
with the Kirby Orchestra

SPEAKERS:

[REDACTED]

of Public Affairs,

pamphlet--"The Race of Mankind"

Dr. Max Yergan, Council on African Affairs

Race and Nationality  
The George Washington  
Carver School

Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Jr.

[REDACTED]

Developing the Thinking  
Citizen  
Art and the People

CHAIRMAN:

Gwendolyn Bennett, Director of the George Washington Carver School "

Inspector's report concerning the above-mentioned celebra-  
tion is as follows:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"TIME: 4 P.M. - CLOSED: 6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE: Approximately 1200. Most of which were the intelligencia, Inter Racial groups and service-men in uniform.

b6  
b7C

MASTER OF CEREMONIES - GWENDOLYN BENNETT,  
Director of George Washington Carver School.

"The invocation was offered by the [redacted]  
[redacted] The National Anthem was sung.  
Hall Johnson Choir Sang. Solos were sung by [redacted] and [redacted]  
[redacted] a Czechoslovakian. [redacted] Quartette from Cafe So-  
ciety Uptown offered a couple of numbers.

SPEAKERS

[redacted] of Public Affair pamphlet  
"THE RACES OF MANKIND", said that all men given the same training and opportunities were equal. She endorsed the George Washington Carver School; said it was a credit to the Negroes of this community and was deserving of the support of all races.

"DR. MAX YERGAN, Council of African Affairs, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the George Washington Carver School, welcomed the groups and told of the progress of the school which was encouraging and asked for continued support by people of Harlem.

"CANADA LEE was introduced at this time. He read a letter from one of his buddies who is with the Armed Forces in the South Pacific indicating that a good kind of Democracy that was being practiced among the soldiers in that area. LEE ended his talk by singing 'MY COUNTRY TIS OF THEE'.

"A CLAYTON POWELL - Brought the house down with a speech 'WHY A SEPARATE CELEBRATION IN HARLEM ON I AM AN AMERICAN DAY.' POWELL stated a day of National celebration should be made on the days when GOVERNOR TALMADGE of Georgia and MARTIN LUTHER KING of Texas are burned. POWELL stated that we should fight until every minority group in this country was accorded full democratic treatment. GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"was dedicated to the full Democratic principles of all peoples and should receive everyone's support.

At this point he appealed for funds for the school and started with a check for \$50.00 himself. The total amount collected was approximately \$900.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Work Projects Administration, Sub-Treasury Building, Pine and Nassau Streets, New York City, was interviewed by the writer in regard to additional information regarding the activities of the subject. He advised that he was unable to furnish any additional information not previously reported but that he felt any one of the following individuals might be of assistance in obtaining information concerning her:

[REDACTED]

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

Additional investigation conducted in the vicinity of 57 West 125th Street, where the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL is located, and 2 West 120th Street by Special Agent [REDACTED] and the reporting agent, indicates that RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, husband of the subject, is at the present time engaged in Camp activities outside of New York City.

The subject GWENDOLYN BENNETT appears to be engaged solely in directing the activities of the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL.

- P E N D I N G -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION:

At New York City, N. Y. - Will endeavor to obtain handwriting specimens of the subject and will report all communist activities concerning the subject and the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL, with which she is affiliated.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants mentioned in the  
report of Special Agent [redacted] dated August 22,  
1944, at New York, New York, are as follows:

(U)

(S) [redacted] whose identity is known to  
the Bureau.

[redacted] whose identity is known to  
the Bureau.

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

JJM:POH  
100-56529

TO

Director, FBI

DATE November 18, 1944

FROM

SAC, New York

SUBJECT

GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
(Bureau File No. 100-293468)

Information received by this office indicates that the Subject's entire time and effort appears to be centered around the George Washington Carver School, Negro Communist front organization located at 57 West 125th Street, New York City. The Subject is the Director of the above-mentioned school.

Informants of this office state that the Subject at the present time appears to have little if any activity in general Communist Party affairs.

In view of the above information, the Subject's case is being placed in a pending inactive status at this time. A report will be submitted on or before February 22, 1945.

12/15/92 1048 DKM/gtt

RECORDED

100-293468 7



6 1 NOV 25 1944

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FILE NO 100-56529 RPH

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE FEB 22 1945	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/5, 8, 23; 10/30; 11/14, 18, 25; 12/12, 14, 26/44; 2/10, 19/45	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 15px;"></div>
TITLE GWENDOLYN BENNETT, with aliases		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS</p> <p>Major portion of subject's activity confined to the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL of which she is the Director. BENNETT also teaches at JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, alleged Communist dominated organization located at 575 6th Avenue, NYC.</p> <p>AGENCIES PPF, [unclear] [unclear]</p> <p>DATE [unclear]</p> <p>REFERENCE: Bureau File 100-293468, Report of Special Agent [unclear] dated August 22, 1944 at New York, New York.</p> <p>DETAILS: AT NEW YORK CITY</p> <p>CLASS. &amp; BY 6P-4 JRM/jdc REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.8 DATE OF REVIEW 10-30-98</p> <p>b2 b6 b7C b7D</p> <p>1048/DEM/jdt 12/16/92</p> <p>104-273424-8</p> <p>RECORDED INDEXED EX-8</p> <p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT 7 Bureau 9 New York 2 K 5-1-45 COPY IN FILE</p> <p>50 MAY 2 - 1945</p> <p>CONFIDENTIAL</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED [Signature]	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	

COPIES DESTROYED  
R/S JAN 25 1961

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

4500  
NY 100-56529

(U)

(U)

A review of the 1944 catalogue of the JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE indicates that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was an instructor in "Art, History, and Appreciation."

alleged Communist dominated organization

The JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, 575 Sixth Avenue, New York City, was contacted by the reporting agent under suitable pretext and the following information obtained:

At the present time GWENDOLYN BENNETT is an instructor on the staff of the above mentioned school and is teaching two classes on Wednesday evenings. The first class is from 7:10 to 8:40 P. M. and is entitled, "Art, History, and Appreciation of the Late Renaissance. The second class is from 8:50 to 10:20 P. M. and is on modern art.

(U)

3

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



b6  
b7C  
b7D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

(U)

(U)

The following information was newspaper comment concerning the subject and her activities:

The "Peoples Voice", negro Communist newspaper in issue of September 23, 1944 contained a picture of the subject together with background information which has been previously furnished to the Bureau.

The "Daily Worker" in issue of December 9, 1944 contained an article concerning the course "The Negro and the Nation" given jointly by the JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL, and the "Peoples Voice". The article stated that the outstanding lecturers included [redacted] GWENDOLYN BENNETT, and ALPHAEUS HUNTON (known Communists).

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

"The New York Amsterdam News" Negro newspaper, in issue of January 20, 1945 stated that a meeting took place at the Schomburg Collection, 135 Public Library on January 14, 1945, at which time Doctor REDDICK, Curator of the Schomburg Collection, and GWENDOLYN BENNETT spoke regarding GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER. The substance of Miss BENNETT'S talk was the meaning of the life of Doctor CARVER as related to the general education of Negroes in America.

The "Peoples Voice" in issue of January 27, 1945, contained a picture of the subject, together with the following individuals:

[redacted] of CARVER; ✓  
[redacted]  
Councilman BENJAMIN DAVIS;  
[redacted]

b6  
b7C

"The New York Amsterdam News" of February 10, 1945 in the column entitled, "Labor Forum" [redacted] stated:

"The George Washington Carver School aims not only to help working people understand better the world they live in; it also seeks to keep alive the life and work of Dr. Carver as a source of inspiration to others who face, as he did, adversity and lack of opportunity. Whereas the People's College is an outgrowth of the schools and colleges in Atlanta, the Carver School is in a sense an outgrowth of the labor movement in New York. According to the Director of the Carver School, Gwendolyn Bennett, nationally known poet and author, almost half of the students attending the school since it was organized in October, 1943, have been members of trade unions. Some fifteen CIO and AFL unions were represented in the student body of 358 last term."

The "New York Age" Negro newspaper in issue of February 10, 1945, contained an article that the BEN DAVIS CLUB would hold a weeks celebration in honor of Negro History Week. The article went on to say:

"The Ben Davis Club (named for Councilman Davis) of the CPA has arranged programs during Negro History Week at its headquarters, 2315 Seventh Avenue, Sunday, February 11th, at 4 p.m. at the club, a forum will be held at which time Councilman Benjamin J. Davis, Jr. and Miss Gwendolyn Bennett, director of the George Washington Carver School of Harlem will be guest speakers, also entertainment."

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

The "Pittsburgh Courier", Negro newspaper, in issue of February 17, 1945 indicates that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, Director of the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL, participated in a forum in connection with Negro History Week, the forum taking place at N.M.U. Recreation Hall.

- P E N D I N G -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

\* AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK - Will endeavor to obtain additional handwriting specimens of the subject and will report all Communist activities concerning the subject and the GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCHOOL, of which she is Director.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of  
Special Agent [redacted] dated February 22, 1945 at New York,  
New York are:

(U)

[redacted]

whose identity

(U)

is known to the Bureau.

[redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

JJM:RFH  
100-56529TO : Director, FBI  
Attention: FBI Laboratory

DATE February 22, 1945

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: GWENDOLYN BENNETT, with aliases  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
(Bureau File 100-293468)

Herewith is submitted for inclusion in the National Security file five photostatic copies of a handwriting specimen of the above captioned subject. Some difficulty has been experienced in obtaining sufficient handwriting specimens of the subject in view of the fact that most of her correspondence and work is done by typewriter. Every effort will be made to obtain more comprehensive additional specimens of the subject's handwriting, and the same will be forwarded to the Bureau as they are received.

Enclosures (5)

REGISTERED MAIL

DECLASSIFIED BY 60324 auc baw/cph/kj  
ON 03-07-2007

NO ANS. NEC: One  
SPEC. RETAINED IN LAB

2-26-45  
HD MFA

Classified by 1048/DKM/gtl  
Declassify on: OADR  
12/16/92

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

EX-18  
RECORDED

100-293468-9  
FEB 28 1945

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SEVEN~~  
916

TAN  
FROM  
A  
Chen!

SEVEN  
ENC  
MFA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
over

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

G. Bennett

132406

Why now?

8/16

to  
1-11-45

1-11-45

OR

5  
ENC  
150

53 2110 100-293468-357

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/24/92 BY D48/244/92

ENCLOSURE

COPIES DESTROYED  
R130 JAN 25 1961

100-293468-9



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 03-07-2007 BY 60324 auc baw/cpb/kj

5 Enclosures for BUREAU Office

Re: NEW YORK FILE NO. 100-56529

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 03-07-2007 BY 60324 auc baw/cpb/kj

b6  
b7c

No. 496

December 11 1944

Received from

Five

00 Dollars  
100

# Titition - The Negro and the Nation

\$ 5.00

George Washington Carver  
School Committee

G. Bennett

WILSON JONES CO. U.S.A.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

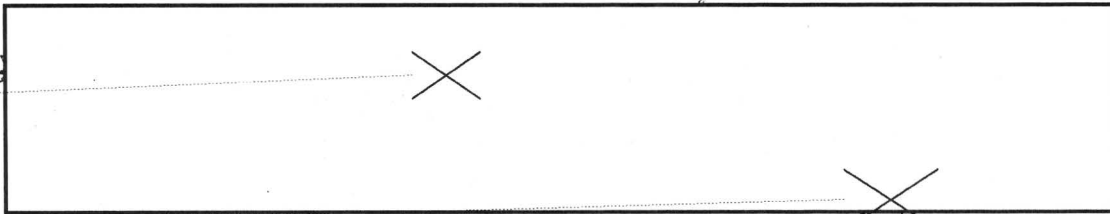
NY FILE NO

100-56529 MXS

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>11/30/45</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3/26;4/9;5/2; 6/7;9/12,27; 10/9;11/15,26/45</b>	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px;"></div>
TITLE <b>. GWENDOLYN BENNETT, with aliases</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY-C</b>	
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS <div style="position: relative; height: 150px;"><div style="position: absolute; top: 10px; left: 10px; transform: rotate(-45deg); border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE</div><p>GWENDOLYN BENNETT continues to occupy position of director of George Washington Carver School, Communist front organization. Her name is frequently mentioned in the columns of the "Daily Worker", and the "Peoples Voice", Negro Communist newspaper, in connection with the affairs of the George Washington Carver School. At the present time subject is also conducting classes in American art at the Jefferson School of Social Science, 575 Avenue of the Americas, NYC.</p></div>		b2 b6 b7C b7D	
REFERENCE:		Bureau File 100-293468	
DETAILS:		AT NEW YORK CITY:-	
COPIES DESTROYED R180 JAN 25 1961		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 500px; height: 100px;"></div>	
APPROVED AND FORWARDED <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 40px;"></div>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5--Bureau 3--New York		100-56529-10 RECORDED & INDEXED 20	

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b7D



(U)

(U)

The negro Communist newspaper "Peoples Voice", frequently refers to the subject in connection with the affairs of the George Washington Carver School. Pertinent references to the subject appearing in this newspaper are as follows:

The "Peoples Voice", issue of July 10, 1945 contained an article which stated in part that the second term of the Carver School would open on February 13, 1946, that the subject, GWENDOLYN BENNETT would continue to occupy the position as director of the George Washington Carver School, and that the total negro student enrollment at that time was 1081 students.

The "Peoples Voice" of February 24, 1945 stated that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, director the George Washington Carver School, was still receiving registrations for the various courses which were to be conducted at the institution.

On May 14, 1945 the "Peoples Voice", again mentioned the subject as director of the George Washington Carver School.

The "Peoples Voice" of May 5, 1945 contained a picture of the subject and her staff at the Carver School.

The "Peoples Voice" of July 28, 1945 listed the subject as one of the judges of the question and answer contest on negro matters which was to be jointly conducted by the "Peoples Voice", and the George Washington Carver School.

The "Peoples Voice", issue of November 24, 1945 contained an article concerning the Carver School a summary of which is as follows: GWENDOLYN BENNETT, director of the George Washington Carver School, has stated that the school has just celebrated its second year of steady progress and has an alltime record of registration with more than 700 students being offered 39 courses.

The "Daily Worker" frequently mentions the subject by name in connection with the affairs of the George Washington Carver School, and the Jefferson School of Social Science, which is located at 575 Avenue of the Americas, New York City.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The issues of the "Daily Worker", in which pertinent portions pertaining to the subject are found are as follows:

The "Daily Worker" of February 18, 1945 stated that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, director, believes the Carver School will grow in size, and will become a definite influence in the negro community. She also stated that in their school there is strong trade union support.

The "Daily Worker" of May 5, 1945 contained a picture of the subject and her staff taken during the opening day classes of the spring term of the George Washington Carver School. The women appearing in the picture were [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] GWENDOLYN BENNETT, director, [REDACTED]

All of the above mentioned individuals are well known Communists in this city. It should be noted in regard to [REDACTED] that this individual was at one time actively engaged in [REDACTED] for the Comintern and was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OTTO HUISWOUD.

The "Daily Worker", issue of May 7, 1945 indicates that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a sponsor of a meeting in honor of JACQUES ROUMAIN, negro Haitian Communist who recently died. The meeting in question was held at the New York Times Hall and was highlighted by an address by EARL BROWDER, president of the Communist Political Association, as well as additional addresses by CANADA LEE, and [REDACTED] prominent Communist.

The "Daily Worker", issue of April 5, 1945 indicated that the subject was conducting classes in "Modern Art---Cezanne to the Present", the course in question given by the subject was held at the Jefferson School of Social Science, located at 575 Avenue of the Americas, New York City. This institution is a well known Communist front organization.

[REDACTED] whose identities are known to the Bureau, advised the reporting Agent that the subject's communist activities appear to be confined mainly to the affairs of the Jefferson School of Social Science and the George Washington Carver School, with most of her time and effort being devoted to the latter organization.

(S)(u)

- P E N D I N G -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

NY 100-56529

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At New York City:-

Will follow and report the Communist activities of the subject, and her activities in connection with the George Washington Carver School, of which she is the director.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS~~

The following Confidential Informants were mentioned in the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated November 30, 1945 at New York, New York:

(U)

[redacted]

[redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau.

(U)

[redacted]

[redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO **100-56529**

JRW

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>9/20/46</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>1/11; 3/26; 6/14; 27; 8/1, 12, 29, 30/46</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[Redacted]</b>
TITLE <b>GWENDOLYN BENNETT, with aliases Gwendolyn Bennett Crosscup, Mrs. Alfred Jackson, Gwendolyn Bennett Jackson, Ruth Gale</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS <p>Subject, a negro, claims to have been born 7/8/02 at Giddings, Texas. At the present time she resides at 2 West 120th Street, NYC with her husband, RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, who is a white man. Subject's husband was born 7/24/05 at Dorchester, Mass. The subject is the present director of the George Washington Carver School, Negro Communist Front Organization, located at 57 West 125th Street, NYC. In addition, she is a part time lecturer at the Jefferson School of Social Science, 575 Sixth Avenue, NYC. Subject is a member of the Harlem Section of the Communist Party.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">b6 b7C</p>			
REFERENCE: <p>Bureau file 100-293468. SAC letter #28 series 1946, dated March 12, 1946. Report of Special Agent [Redacted] 11/30/45, New York.</p>			
DETAILS: <p><u>At New York City</u></p> <p>On June 14, 1946, the Reporting Agent verified the fact that the subject continues to reside at 2 West 120th Street, New York City. The subject is a negro and her husband, RICHARD B. CROSSCUP is a white man.</p> <p>On the same date as above, it was determined that the subject is still the director of the George Washington Carver School, Negro</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>Edward Scheidt</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES DESTROYED R-80 JAN 25 1961		100-293468-11 F B I 15 SEP 23 1946 FIVE	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 3 - New York		INDEXED EX-34	

60 JAN 21 1947

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Communist Front Organization, located at 57 West 125th Street, New York City. It was also determined that the subject was a part time lecturer at the Jefferson School of Social Science, Communist School, located at 575 Sixth Avenue, New York City.

The records of the WPA, Sub Treasury Building, Pine and Nassau Streets, New York City, were reviewed by the Reporting Agent and it was determined from these records that the subject, a negro, claimed to have been born at Giddings, Texas in July 1902. A letter from the Health Department at Giddings, Texas to the New York Branch of the WPA indicated that birth records were not maintained at Giddings, Texas until 1903.

On June 25, 1940, the subject married RICHARD B. CROSSCUP, a white man. The files also reflected that the subject, at the present time, is employed as the director of the George Washington Carver School in Harlem.

The records of the Registrar's Office, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts were reviewed by an Agent of the Boston Field division and the following information concerning RICHARD B. CROSSCUP was obtained:

RICHARD B. CROSSCUP was born July 24, 1905 at Dorchester, Massachusetts. His father's name was given as LOUIS EDWIN CROSSCUP, his mother's name being LILLIAN CAMPBELL CROSSCUP. Dates of birth of the parents were not given.

The Daily Worker, issue of January 11, 1946, contains an article captioned NOTED NEGROES TO LECTURE AT JEFFERSON SCHOOL. Among those listed was the name of Miss GWENDOLYN BENNETT who will lecture on Art. The Daily Worker of the same date carried an advertisement of the Jefferson School of Social Science, 575 Sixth Avenue, New York City, indicating that GWENDOLYN BENNETT would teach a course in Modern Art : CEZANNE TO THE PRESENT.

The Daily Worker of January 29, 1946 indicated that the International Workers Order awarded prizes to the George Washington School and the Institute for Jewish Studies. The awards would be presented by GWENDOLYN BENNETT, director of the Carver School, and MORRIS U. SCHAPPES, union communist and director of the Institute for Jewish Studies.

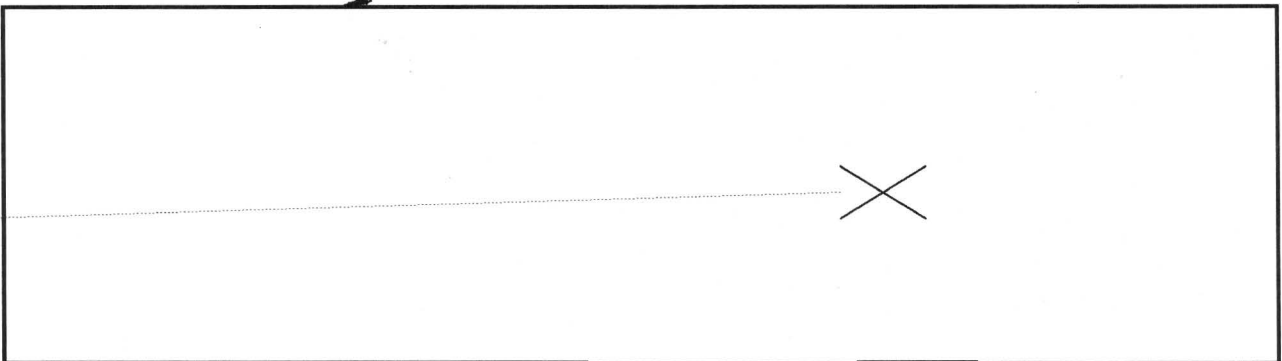
NY 100-56529

The Daily Worker of January 31, 1946 indicated that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, director of the George Washington Carver School, would speak on "The Negro in Art" at the Jefferson School on Thursday at 6:30 P.M. The article stated that BENNETT was a member of the American Artists Congress and the Artists' Union, affiliated to the CIO.

The Daily Worker of February 3, 1946 contains the administrative staff of the George Washington Carver School which includes a picture of the subject.

b2  
b7D

(U)



Bureau. ~~(S)~~

The identity of [redacted] is known to the

(U)

- P E N D I N G -

NY 100-56529

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At New York City

Will follow and report the Communist activities of the subject, and her activities in connection with the George Washington Carver School, of which she is the director.

100-293468

SAC, New York City

November 6, 1946

Director, FBI

OTENDOLYN BERNETT, with aliases  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
(New York file No. 100-56529)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/16/92 BY 1048/DKM/gjt

The Bureau desires that in further investigating this subject's activities specific attention be given to obtaining admissible evidence which will prove directly or circumstantially her membership in or affiliation with the Communist Party, and knowledge of the revolutionary aims and purposes of that organization. When, in your judgment, sufficient evidence has been obtained you should prepare a report in summary form in which temporary symbols will be used to protect the identity of those informants who are in a position to testify.

ARS:MED

RECORDED

ES-10

100-293468-12  
NOV 13 1946

MAILED 15

★ NOV 6 - 1946 P.M.

RECEIVED U.S. DEPT. OF INVESTIGATION

NOV 15 1946

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

58 NOV 15 1946

367

Howe  
K

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT *Remove K.F.*

TO : Director, FBI

DATE November 2, 1949

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
(Bureau file 100-293468)*MRS. RICHARD CROSSCUP*

A review of instant file reflects that the above named individual has not been engaged in Communist activities since November, 1947.

(U) [redacted] have advised that since 1947, at which time the George Washington Carver School closed, that they have not observed nor heard of any Communist activities on the part of the subject.

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

(U) [redacted] advised that GWENDOLYN BENNETT had suffered a nervous breakdown in 1947 and that it was not known whether or not the Carver School would ever reopen.

(U) In view of the above, GWENDOLYN BENNETT'S name is being removed from the Key Figure List in the New York Office and this case is being closed subject to being reopened should the subject again become active in the Communist Party.

Owing to the past activities of the subject in the Communist Party, it is suggested that the Security Index Card in this case continue to be maintained.

Enclosed herewith is the report of SA [redacted] at New York, dated November 2, 1949.

Encs. (5)

*ENCLOSURE*  
EX-110  
124SE 1  
RECORDED - 124  
EX-110

1106-293468-13

F B I  
31 NOV 3 1949

FIVE 2

Classified by 1048/DKM/gtl  
Declassify on OADR  
12/29/92MAT:MTH  
100-56529ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

NOV 14 1949 160

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

- NY FILE NO **100-56529** mth

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>NOV 2 1946</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>6/1-3; 8/2; 9/23; 10/5, 14, 17/49</b>	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
TITLE <b>GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.</b>  DECLASSIFIED BY 60324 auc baw/cpb/kj ON 03-07-2007			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 25%;">SYNOPSIS OF FACTS</div> <div style="width: 75%;"> <p>Subject, in 1946, was instructor at Jefferson School of Social Science. Was also director of now defunct George Washington Carver School. [ ] advised in February, 1947 that GWENDOLYN BENNETT is a member of National Cultural Commission of CP. [ ] in September, 1947, advised that Carver School closed and that subject suffered nervous breakdown. [ ] have advised that periodical checks from December, 1947 to October, 1949, failed to disclose any CP activity of the subject. [ ] state subject is still residing with husband, RICHARD CROSSCUP, at Two West 120th Street and is unemployed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- C -</p> <p>REFERENCE: Bureau file 100-293468 Bureau letter, 12/14/48 Report of SA [ ] New York, 9/20/46</p> <p>DETAILS: The catalog of the Jefferson School of Social Science for September - December, 1946, reflects that the subject will be an instructor at the school.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">On November 22, 1946, [ ] of [ ]</p> </div> </div> <div style="position: absolute; right: 0; top: 430px;"> b2 b6 b7C b7D </div> <div style="position: absolute; right: 0; top: 500px;"> 10048/DK/mjt 12/24/92 </div>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Edward Schults</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		ENCLOSURES DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES DESTROYED R-30 JAN 25 1981 5 - Bureau 3 - New York  1 cc DR 11-9-49 FCZ FEB		<div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">29346</div> <div style="text-align: center;">NOV 8 1946</div> <div style="text-align: center;">FIVE</div>	
		CORDED - 124 INDEXED - 124 EX-110	



NY 100-56529

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

[REDACTED]

(U) The "Daily Worker" issue of January 14, 1947, reported that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, director of the George Washington Carver School, announced that 6,000 persons have taken advantage of the school's educational opportunities over the past three years. She also reported that some new courses were to be started and that the instructors and guest lecturers would be [REDACTED] RAY HANSBOROUGH, HENRY WINSTON, MAX WEISS, [REDACTED] and EDWARD STRONG.

On February 21, 1947, [REDACTED] of known reliability, advised that GWENDOLYN BENNETT is a member of the National Cultural Commission of the Communist Party.

The catalog of the Jefferson School of Social Science for April and June, 1947 listed GWENDOLYN BENNETT as a faculty member of this institution.

[REDACTED] of known reliability, advised that all instructors and guest lecturers at the Jefferson School of Social Science are either Communist Party members or strong Communist sympathizers.

On September 17, 1947, [REDACTED] advised that the George Washington Carver School discontinued operation. Informant said the school was deeply in debt, that the director of the school, GWENDOLYN BENNETT, had suffered a nervous breakdown and no one knew where she was living at this time.

On November 4, 1947, [REDACTED] of known reliability, advised that the George Washington Carver School had closed its doors and discontinued its activities due to the lack of funds.

From December, 1947 to October, 1949, [REDACTED] all of known reliability, advised that they have made periodical checks to ascertain whether the George Washington School has renewed operations and that they found that the school is definitely out of existence and will not be reopened.

In October, 1948, [REDACTED] advised that he had heard from reliable sources that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, former director of the school,

NY 100-56529

is suffering from a nervous breakdown and is somewhat mentally unbalanced and that she is no longer connected with any activities of the Communist Party.

[redacted] advised in August, 1949 that the subject is suffering from a nervous breakdown and is no longer connected with any activities of the Communist Party. Informants stated that the subject is residing at Two West 120th Street, New York City, with her husband, RICHARD CROSSCUP, and that she is confining herself to her apartment and that she is unemployed.

On October 5, 1949, [redacted] was interviewed under pretext and [redacted] stated that GWENDOLYN BENNETT is in "poor health" and seldom leaves her apartment. She stated that the subject is a housewife and that for the past two years the subject and her husband have "kept to themselves" and have had very few visitors.

On October 14, 1947, [redacted] advised that he had ascertained from reliable sources in Harlem that the subject was "through with the Communist Party" and was only interested in her own affairs as a wife and her duties as a housewife.

- C L O S E D -

NY 100-56529

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of SA [redacted]  
[redacted] at New York, dated NOV 2 1949 are as follows:

(U) (U)

(U) (U)

(U)

(C)

[redacted]

~~(C)~~

[redacted]

~~(C)~~

~~(C)~~

who reported to

SA [redacted]

who reported to

SA [redacted]

who reported to

SA [redacted]

who reported to

SAS [redacted]

and

[redacted]

[redacted]

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

December 14, 1948

100-293468 ✓

SAC,  
New York

RE:

GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
New York File #100-56529

b6  
b7C

Dear Sir:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 12/16/97 BY 1048/DKM/gtt

A review of the files at the Bureau in connection with this subject has revealed that a report has not been received from your office concerning the subject since the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated 9-20-46 at New York

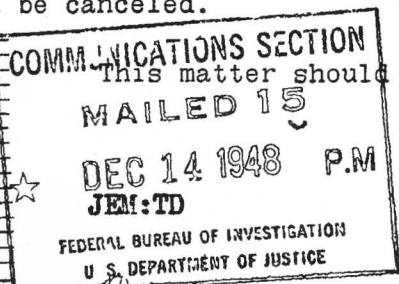
While it is realized that existing instructions do not require that a report be submitted periodically on Security Index card subjects unless the subject is also a top functionary, it is felt that in view of the tense international situation at the present time, a new report should be submitted setting forth the extent of the subject's present activities in connection with the Communist Party and related groups in order that the Bureau will be in possession of current information concerning each one of those subjects who are considered a threat to the internal security.

In submitting the report, the Bureau desires that you incorporate in summary form the information contained in your files not previously reported. Information of substantive nature only should be set forth and repetitious material should be avoided. Where a description of the subject has not been reported, that, too, should be included in the report and also placed on the reverse side of the Security Index card in accordance with the instructions outlined in SAC Letter No. 57, Series 1948, dated April 10, 1948.

In the event the subject's current address is not the same as that which appears on the Security Index card, you should correct the Security Index card and forward Form FD-119 to the Bureau in order that the Security Index card at the Bureau can be corrected.

In order that the Security Index will contain only the names of those individuals who can be considered to be a threat to the internal security of this country, the Bureau desires that you carefully appraise this case and if it appears that the subject, based on his present position and activities or past position and activities, cannot be considered such as threat, then in addition to submitting the report, you should recommend that the Security Index card be canceled.

Tolson  
Clegg  
Glavin  
Ladd  
Nichols  
Rosen  
Tracy  
Egan  
Gurnea  
Harbo  
Mohr  
Pennington  
Quinn Tamm  
Room  
Tele. Rm.  
Holloman



Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director



United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
New York 7, New York

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

December 13, 1949

Director, FBI

RE: DETCOM  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.  
SECURITY MATTER - C

Dear Sir:

For your information the above captioned individual on whom a Security Index card has been prepared by this office has formerly been designated for priority attention in the event of an emergency necessitating apprehension of persons listed in the Security Index.

However, inasmuch as she is no longer being considered a Key Figure in this office, her name is being removed from this group at this time.

DECLASSIFIED BY 1048/DKM/gt  
ON 12/16/92

Very truly yours,

Edward Scheidt  
EDWARD SCHEIDT,  
SAC

cc: 100-56529

JMF:MJF  
100-90409

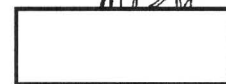
RECORDED - 114

DE  
34

126

12

b6  
b7C



# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 12-13-49

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
Bufile #100-293468

*Standard  
2-1-50*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/16/77 BY 1048 DKM/g

It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above captioned individual.

X The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ALIASES \_\_\_\_\_

RACE \_\_\_\_\_ SEX \_\_\_\_\_ NATIVE BORN \_\_\_\_\_ NATURALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ ALIEN \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNIST \_\_\_\_\_ SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY \_\_\_\_\_ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE \_\_\_\_\_

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

TAB FOR DETCOM \_\_\_\_\_ TAB FOR COMSAB \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

RESIDENCE ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address) \_\_\_\_\_

Jefferson School of Social Science (Teaching one night a week)

575 Sixth Avenue, New York, New York Wednesday night)

NATURE OF INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS (Specify from Strategic and Vital Industry List)

MAT:MJF  
100-56529

RECORDED - 58

100-293468-15  
DEC 15 1949  
FBI

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: AUG 29 1950

FROM: SAC, New York  
SUBJECT: GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
Bufile 100-293468

*Search HTD  
9-7-50 RM*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/16/92 BY 1548/DKM/gtl

It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above captioned individual.

X The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ALIASES \_\_\_\_\_

RACE \_\_\_\_\_ SEX \_\_\_\_\_ NATIVE BORN \_\_\_\_\_ NATURALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ ALIEN \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNIST \_\_\_\_\_ SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY \_\_\_\_\_ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE \_\_\_\_\_

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

TAB FOR DETCOM \_\_\_\_\_ TAB FOR COMSAB \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

RESIDENCE ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address) \_\_\_\_\_

Consumers Union of U.S., Inc., Mailing and Subscription Department, 38 East 1st Street,  
New York City (OR 4-1300)

NATURE OF INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS (Specify from Strategic and Vital Industry List)

VJB:DAA  
100-56529

492  
SEP 05 1950  
SEP 22 1950

RECORDED - 5

100-293468-16  
AUG 30 1950

b6  
b7C



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO . Director, FBI (100-293468)

DATE April 19, 1952

FROM *WJ* SAC, New York (100-56529)SUBJECT GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.  
SECURITY MATTER - CALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/16/92 BY 1948/DKM/ATCard U T.D.  
5-1-52 *ec*

It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above-captioned individual.

X The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ALIASES \_\_\_\_\_

NATIVE BORN \_\_\_\_\_ NATURALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ ALIEN \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNIST \_\_\_\_\_ SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY \_\_\_\_\_ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE \_\_\_\_\_

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

TAB FOR DETCOM \_\_\_\_\_ TAB FOR COMSAB \_\_\_\_\_ RACE \_\_\_\_\_ SEX \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address) \_\_\_\_\_

*403* Consumers Union of U.S. Inc. Mailing and Subscription Dept.  
38 East 1st Street (4th Floor), NYC, (know there as Mrs. Crosscup)

NATURE OF INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS (Specify from Vital Facility List) \_\_\_\_\_

RESIDENCE ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMR:mat

RECORDED - 51

100-293468-17  
APR 23 1952b6  
b7c

MAY 5 1952

EX-130

FIVE

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-293468)

DATE 6/4/53

FROM : SAC, New York (100-56529)

SUBJECT: GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was  
SM - C  
SECURITY INFORMANT PROGRAM  
NEW YORK DIVISIONALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/16/97 BY 1048/DKM/gf

In connection with the Security Informant Program in the New York Division the following information is submitted.

Background *MRS. RICHARD CROSSCUP*

G.I.R.-5

GWENDOLYN BENNETT CROSSCUP, a negress, claims to have been born 7/8/02 at Giddings, Texas. She is married to RICHARD CROSSCUP, white, born 7/24/05. She is reported to have attended Columbia Teachers College, New York City and to have graduated from Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York in 1924. She is also reported to have studied at Julien Academy, Paris, France in 1925 and 1926, and at Barnes Foundation, Marion, Pa. during 1927 and 1928.

Information received in October 1952 indicates she is employed in the subscription department of Consumers Union of U.S. Inc., 4th floor, 38 East First Avenue, New York City and presently resides at 2 West 120th Street, New York City.

Communist Activity

Subject was listed in the winter term 1944 Catalogue of the Jefferson School of Social Science, New York as an instructor. This catalogue also identified her as Director of the George Washington Carver School in New York. It is noted that both schools have been cited by the Attorney General as organizations coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

In 1941 during the course of an investigation conducted by the Works Progress Administration it was reported by a source of unknown reliability that the subject was a member of the Communist Party Publicity Committee for the New York District in 1936, 1937 and 1938. Another informant of unknown reliability reported that the subject was known to him as a Communist Party

APPROVED

Submit results in report

Date 6-30-53

RECORDED-97

INDEXED-97

1 -

[Redacted]

JUN 17 1953

b2  
b7D

MEE:BA

63 JUL 2 1953

Letter to Director  
NY 100-56529

member in 1941. She was also reported by several sources to have been a delegate to the National Negro Congress Convention in Philadelphia in 1937. The National Negro Congress has been cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835. It was also reported during the course of the WPA investigation in 1941 that she had campaigned in Pittsburgh in 1940 for JAMES FORD, CP candidate for Vice President of the United States in 1940.

She was during the period of 1943 to 1947 the director of the George Washington Carver School. It is noted that the school closed in late 1947 due to lack of funds. In 1947 she was reliably reported to be a member of the National Cultural Commission of the Communist Party.

During the course of an investigation conducted in 1941 by the WPA concerning the subject it was alleged by an individual of unknown reliability that RICHARD CROSSCUP, subject's husband was a member of the Communist Party in the year 1935. In this same investigation it was alleged that CROSSCUP was seen in the Communist Party offices on 13th Street, New York City in the year 1938.

In December 1946 a reliable informant advised that RICHARD CROSSCUP was teaching at the George Washington Carver School.

The 1946 issues of "Fraternal Outlook", monthly publication of the International Workers Order identified RICHARD CROSSCUP as National Director of Children's Activities for the IWO. He has been reported to have worked for the IWO until March 1951. His present occupation is unknown. The IWO has been cited by the Attorney General as an organization coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

In April 1946 a reliable informant advised that RICHARD CROSSCUP attended the Harlem Section Convention of the Communist Party held 3/1-3/46. The informant related that RICHARD CROSSCUP signed the register at the Convention and stated that all persons who signed the register were members of the Communist Party.

Letter to Director  
NY 100-56529

Recently a reliable Confidential Informant of this office advised that up until the closing of the George Washington Carver School the subject had been its director. He reported that prior to the closing of this school the subject had engaged in a card game with persons outside the Communist Party and lost a considerable amount of money which belonged to the school. When an audit was made of the books of the school the shortage was discovered. The subject confessed to his actions, but was unable to make up the loss. She became quite upset about this and is reported to have suffered a nervous breakdown. At the time the shortage was discovered the Party leadership was quite alarmed and did not make any issue of it in order to prevent a break in morale in the Party. The informant stated that the leadership did not even bring this information to the attention of the Review Commission of the Party, for fear of embarrassment.

According to the informant the subject was inactive for a few years after the above mentioned incident, but according to present information he has received she is now teaching part time at the Jefferson School of Social Science in New York. The informant has advised that anyone instructing at the Jefferson School would also have to be active in the Communist Party.

#### Plan of Approach

The subject will be approached in a direct manner, at a secure place, away from her residence and employment. She will be interviewed by two agents.

Bureau authority is requested so that the subject can be interviewed in accordance with existing Bureau instructions relating to interviews under the Security Informant Program.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-293468)

FROM : *File* SAC, New York (100-56529)

SUBJECT: GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.  
SM-C  
SECURITY INFORMANT PROGRAM  
NEW YORK DIVISION

DATE. 9/23/53

Re NY letter to Director dated 6/4/53

Attempts to interview the subject in accordance with existing instructions relative to interviews under the Security Index Program have been unsuccessful to date.

New York will continue to effect the above interview and as soon as results are obtained the Bureau will be notified.

1- 

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/16/92 BY 1048/D b2 b7D

MFE:RSM

RECORDED-74

EX-125

53 OCT 1 1953

100-273468-19  
SEP 24 1953  
*WAC*

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-293468)

DATE 11/5/53

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

FROM : SAC, New York (100-56529)

SUBJECT : GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was  
SM-CSECURITY INFORMANT PROGRAM  
NEW YORK DIVISION

ReNY letters to Bureau, 6/4/53 and 9/23/53.

Subject was contacted under safe and secure conditions on the corner of Second Avenue and First Street, NYC, at approximately 9:10 am 10/27/53, by SA'S [redacted] and [redacted]. After the interviewing agents identified themselves and advised the subject of her rights, she admitted her identity and during the ensuing conversation advised that she and her husband reside at 2 West 120th St, NYC, and that she is employed by Consumers Union of the U.S., Inc., 38 East First Street, NYC.

She was not cooperative in that she repeatedly stated that she had no information about herself or husband that the FBI does not already have. When discreetly advised that she was not in a position to know the extent of the information in the Bureau's and that it was desired that information be obtained directly from her concerning herself or any acquaintances in an effort to further substantiate or refute any information in the Bureau's possession. She merely repeated her original statement that she was sure that she had no information that is not already in the Bureau's possession.

When questioned as to Party membership, subject refused to affirm or deny any CP membership. She was evasive to all questions and replied to questions referring to CP membership that such questions were supposition.

It is to be noted that [redacted] described the subject as a member of the Harlem Section of the CP (C).

When questioned concerning her loyalty to the U.S. Government, the subject replied that she is loyal to the U.S. and has never been anything but loyal to the U.S. When questioned concerning her loyalty to the U.S. in the event the U.S. became involved in a war with Russia, she evaded a direct answer to this question and stated that she is loyal to the U.S. and has never been anything but loyal to the U.S.

Encs: (5)

RM

MFE:AR

1-

COPIES DESTROYED  
JAN 25 1967

RECORDED - 51

EX-124

NOV 10 1953



Letter to Director, FBI  
NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Subject was asked for information concerning her husband's Party activities, to which she replied such questions were supposition and that she was not in a position to offer suppositions concerning anyone.

At this point the subject terminated the interview by stating that she would have no information that the Bureau does not already have and further that anything she could offer about others would be supposition and that she would not give suppositions concerning anyone. The subject thereafter departed and proceeded directly to her employment at 38 East First Street, NYC.

It is recommended that the subject not be recontacted due to her failure to cooperate in that she gave evasive answers and terminated the interview by walking away from the interviewing agents.



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>11/5/53</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>10/6,8,12,14,27/53</b>	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
TITLE <b>GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SECURITY MATTER-C</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS** Subject interviewed 10/27/53, at which time she advised that she resides at 2 West 120th St, NYC, and is employed by Consumers Union of the U.S., Inc., at 38 East 1st Street, NYC. Subject refused to confirm or deny any CP membership. She claims to be loyal to the U.S. Govt. Subject was evasive to questions asked and terminated the interview by leaving interviewing agents.

b6  
b7C

AGENCY DR  
REQ REC'D 1-20-54  
DATE FORW 8-6  
HOW FORW TDR/  
BY

DECLASSIFIED BY 1048 DKM/glt  
ON 12/16/92

- C -

**DETAILS:** On October 27, 1953, subject was interviewed at the corner of Second Avenue and First Street, New York City, by SA   and the reporting agent. Subject advised that she resides with her husband at 2 West 120th Street, New York City, and stated that she is employed by the Consumers Union of the United States, Inc., 38 East First Street, New York City.

The subject refused to confirm or deny Communist Party membership. She advised that any information she could give along these same lines concerning other individuals would be supposition and that she would not offer suppositions concerning anyone. Subject stated that she is loyal to the United States Government and has never been anything but loyal to the U. S. She refused to give direct answers to questions concerning loyalty to the United States in the event United States were involved in a war with Russia. The subject terminated the interview by departing from the interviewing agents.

- C -

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <div style="text-align: center;"><b>LB</b></div>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	ENCLOSURE (DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES)
COPIES DESTROYED R 130 JAN 25 1961 <b>COPY IN FILE</b> 5-Bureau (100-293468) (RM) + DR 3-New York (100-56529) 58 DEC 1 1953		100-293468-20 NOV 10 1953 RECORDED - 51 EX-124

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

NY 100-56529

ADMINISTRATIVE

REFERENCE:

NY report of SA

[REDACTED]

11/2/49.

b6  
b7C

SAC, New York (100-56529)

November 25, 1953

CORDED - 78 Director, FBI (100-293468) - 20

EX-112

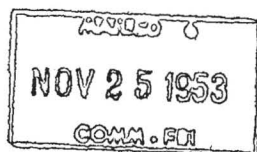
GWENDOLYN BENNETT  
SECURITY MATTER - C

Re report of SA [redacted] dated  
November 5, 1953, setting forth the results of an  
interview with the subject.

b6  
b7C

Prior to closing this case you are requested  
to submit a report incorporating all information  
developed regarding subject's activities subsequent  
to the report of SA [redacted] dated November 2,  
1949.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/16/92 BY 1048/DKM/gjt



Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Gearty \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TDR:glg

58 DEC 1 1953

Handwritten initials and notes in the bottom right corner.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

Form No 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK

EXM

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>JAN 11 1954</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>12/9-11, 21, 28-30/53</b>	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
TITLE  <b>GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.</b> DECLASSIFIED BY 60324 auc baw/cpb/kj ON 03-19-2007			CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>333<sup>nd</sup> SECURITY MATTER - C</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS** Subject resides at 2 West 120th Street, NYC, and is employed by Consumers Union of the US, Inc., 38 East First Street, NYC. Source of unknown reliability reported on 11/11/53 that the subject was a member of the CP prior to 1940. Records of the Board of Elections, NYC, reflect that the name RUTH GALE, 344 Leroux Avenue, NYC, appeared on a 1939 CPNP. Catalogue of JSSS reflects subject was an instructor at that school 1947, 1949 and 1950.

**DETAILS:** Unless otherwise indicated all informants in this report are of known reliability.

## I. BACKGROUND

### A. Employment

On November 2, 1949   advised that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was teaching two classes every Wednesday night at the Jefferson School of Social Science. He stated that to his knowledge this was her only employment.

The Jefferson School of Social Science has been designated by the Attorney General as an organization pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AGENCY DR  
REQ REC'D 1-22-54  
DATE FORW 2-6  
HOW FORW TDR/pt  
BY  

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>LVB</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE COPIES DESTROYED R130 JAN 25 1961 COPIES OF THIS REPORT (5) - Bureau (100-293468) (RM) 3 - New York (100-56529) <b>COPY IN FILE</b> 7348	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>RECORDED - 15</b>  <b>INDEXED - 10</b>  <b>EX-115</b> </div>
---	--

PROPERTY OF FBI - THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED

NY 100-56529

On March 16, 1950 [ ] furnished information that indicated G. CROSSCUP, 2 West 120th Street, New York City, was employed by the Consumers Union of the United States, Incorporated, 38 East First Street, New York City, for the year 1949.

On October 27, 1953 the subject was interviewed by SAs [ ] and [ ] at which time she advised that she was employed by the Consumers Union of the United States, Incorporated, at 38 East First Street, New York City.

#### B. Residence

On May 7, 1951 [ ] of unknown reliability but in a position to be familiar with the subject, advised that GWENDOLY BENNETT resided at 2 West 120th Street, New York City.

On October 27, 1953 the subject was interviewed by SAs [ ] and [ ] at which time she advised that she resided with her husband at 2 West 120th Street, New York City.

## II. CONNECTIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY

### A. Evidence of Communist Party Membership

On November 11, 1953 [ ] of unknown reliability but who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that the subject was already a member of the Communist Party [ ]

On September 15, 1953 [ ], of unknown reliability but a person in a position to have knowledge of the subject's activities between the years 1937 and 1939, advised that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, a Negro artist, was a self-admitted Communist Party member who advised the informant that she had gone to a Communist Party school.

NY 100-56529

B. Evidence of Communist Party Sympathy

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The records of the Board of Elections, New York City, reflect that the name RUTH GALE, 344 Lenox Avenue, New York City, appeared on a 1949 Communist Party Independent Nominating Petition for BENJAMIN J. DAVIS who was a candidate for City Councilman in Manhattan.

III. SUBJECT'S ACTIVITY IN CONNECTION  
WITH COMMUNIST PARTY FRONT GROUPS

A. Subject's Activity in Connection with  
the Jefferson School of Social Science

The catalogue of the Jefferson School of Social Science for the September - December 1947 term reflects that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, BS in Fine Arts, Columbia; Fellowship Academic Julian, Paris; Director, George Washington Carver School, appeared on a list of instructors and guest lecturers.

The "Daily Worker" issue of November 23, 1949, page 8, column 1, under the heading, "What's On," reflected that Picasso and Goya would be discussed by GWENDOLYN BENNETT at the Jefferson School, 575 Sixth Avenue, at 6:45 p.m.

The "Daily Worker" is an East Coast Communist daily newspaper.

On November 17, 1949 [ ] furnished a booklet issued by the BEN DAVIS Ball Committee entitled "A Tribute to Councilman BENJAMIN J. DAVIS." The name GWENDOLYN BENNETT appeared on a list of faculty under the caption, "Greetings from the Jefferson School."

The catalogue of the Jefferson School of Social Science for the winter 1950 term reflects that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was instructing a course entitled "How to Look at Pictures: Art Appreciation" on Wednesdays from 8:15 to 9:45 p.m.

The "Daily Worker" issue of February 8, 1950, page 5, column 1, under the heading, "What's On," reflects that GWENDOLYN BENNETT would discuss "How to Look at Pictures: Art Appreciation" at the Jefferson School.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 100-293468-21



NY 100-56529

The "Daily Worker" issue of October 4, 1950, page 8, column 4, under the heading "Tonight Manhattan," reflects that the culture of Negro people would be discussed by GWENDOLYN BENNETT at the Jefferson School, 575 Sixth Avenue, at 8:30 p.m.

The "Daily Worker" issue of November 22, 1950, page 8, column 3, reflects an advertisement for the Jefferson School of Social Science that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was teaching a course entitled "The Culture of the Negro People" on Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m.

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

On February 15, 1951 [ ] furnished information that indicated the subject participated in a program sponsored by the Jefferson School of Social Science celebrating Negro History Week held on Sunday, February 11, 1951.

The "Daily Worker" issue of December 6, 1951, page 8, column 5, under the caption "Reception Sunday for [ ]" reflects that one GWENDOLYN BENNETT was one of eight persons participating in a tribute to [ ] to be paid at a reception sponsored by the Jefferson School and "Masses and Mainstream."

The "Daily Worker" of September 29, 1950, page 11, column 5, reflects that the Jefferson School of Social Science announced that [ ]

"Masses and Mainstream" has been cited as the successor to "New Masses," "a Communist magazine," by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities, House Report No. 1953, on the Congress of American Women, April 26, 1950 (originally released October 23, 1949), page 75.

The "Daily Worker" issue of February 8, 1952, page 8, column 1, reflects that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was scheduled to give a reading and an analysis of "working class poets of the Negro people" dedicated to the celebration of Negro History Week at the Jefferson School of Social Science on February 10 at 10:00 p.m.



NY 100-56529

B. Subject's Activity in Connection  
with the American Labor Party

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications," dated May 14, 1951, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., contains the following concerning the American Labor Party:

"1. 'For years, the Communists have put forth the greatest efforts to capture the entire American Labor Party throughout New York State. They succeeded in capturing the Manhattan and Brooklyn sections of the American Labor Party but outside of New York City they have been unable to win control.' (Special Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, March 29, 1944, page 78.)

"2. Among 'organizations that are victims of Communist domination.' (California Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, 1948, pages 40 and 41.)"

The records of the Bureau of Special Services and Investigation, New York City Police Department, as reviewed on December 11, 1953 reflect that the name GWENDOLYN BENNETT, 2 West 120th Street, New York City, appeared on an American Labor Party Nominating Petition for [redacted] candidate for President of the City Council in 1951.

C. Subject's Activity in Connection  
with the George Washington Carver School

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

The George Washington Carver School has been designated by the Attorney General as an organization pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

On November 11, 1953 [redacted] advised that the subject in the early 1940's became the head of the Carver School in Harlem at the time when the Communist Party was establishing similar schools all over America. The informant stated that it was the subject's duty to direct the school, build up a large student body that would also aid in raising funds for its existence, and to interest as many leading people in Harlem as possible to become members of the sponsoring committee.

NY 100-56529

On November 23, 1953 [ ] further advised that GWENDOLYN BENNETT remained the head of the Carver School until sometime in 1946, at which time she became desperately despondent, according to the informant, and was mixed up in great financial difficulties. The Party, according to the informant, relieved the subject of her job as director of the school because of these difficulties. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

D. Subject's Activity in Connection with the  
National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions

The National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions has been cited as a Communist front by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities, Review of the Scientific and Cultural Conference for World Peace arranged by the National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions and held in New York City on March 25, 26 and 27, 1949, House Report No. 1954, April 26, 1950 (originally released April 19, 1949), page 2.

E. Subject's Activities in Connection with  
the American Women for Peace

The American Women for Peace has been cited as "an advance wave to establish a beachhead for other left-wing organizations scheduled to descend on Washington in observance of a Communist-declared "peace week" by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities, House Report No. 378, on the Communist "Peace" Offensive, April 25, 1951, original date April 1, 1951, page 75.

On August 9, 1951 [ ] furnished information that indicated the subject was a New York contact of the American Women for Peace.

NY 100-56529

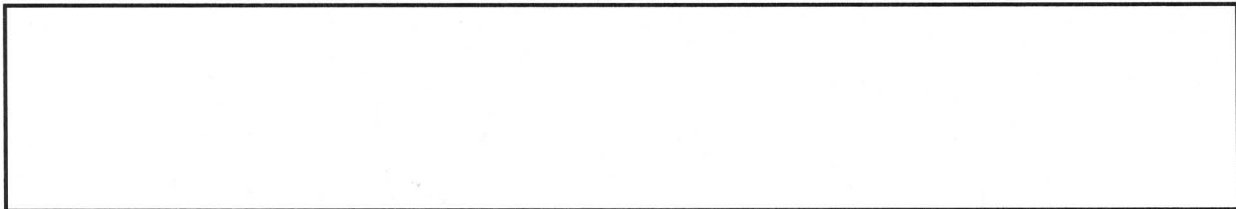
F. Subject's Activity in Connection with  
the International Workers Order

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The International Workers Order has been designated by the Attorney General as an organization pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

b2  
b7D

On April 17, 1950 [ ] furnished information that indicated GWENDOLYN BENNETT, born 1901, was a member of International Workers Order Lodge 691 as of March 1950.



IV. MISCELLANEOUS

The "Daily Worker" issue of February 11, 1953, page 7, column 3, under the heading "Information Please Forum on Negro History" reflects that GWENDOLYN BENNETT would participate in a round table of questions and answers on Negro life and history to be held Thursday, February 12, 1953 at 124 West 124th Street, New York City.

[ ] all of whom have some knowledge of Communist Party activity in the New York City area, advised that they had no information pertaining to the subject.

- C -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 7 -

NY 100-56529

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INFORMANTS

Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to Whom Furnished	File No. Where Located
<div></div>	<div></div>	11/2/49	<div></div>	100-56529-86
		3/16/50		100-56529-90
		<div></div>		<div></div>
		4/17/50		
"	<div></div>			
<div></div>	Residence	5/7/51	<div></div>	100-56529-98
Pretext phone call made to home of subject on 5/7/51				
<div></div>	CP membership about 1940	11/12/53		<div></div>
	Head of Carver School 1940's	11/12/53 11/25/53		

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (Cont'd)

Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to Whom Furnished	File No. Where Located
--------------------	--	---------------	-------------------------	------------------------

[Redacted]		[Redacted]	(oral)	100-56529-112
------------	--	------------	--------	---------------

(U) [Redacted]	Mimeographed copy 2/15/51 of a leaflet issued by JSSS entitled "Negro History Week"	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	
----------------	---	------------	------------	--

(U) [Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	b2 b6 b7C b7D
----------------	------------	------------	------------	------------------------

[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

(U) [Redacted]	Negative	12/11/53	[Redacted] (oral)	Instant report
----------------	----------	----------	----------------------	----------------

[Redacted]	Negative	12/11/53	[Redacted] (oral)	Instant report
------------	----------	----------	----------------------	----------------

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (Cont'd)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to Whom Furnished	File No. Where Located
(U) [Redacted] (S)	Negative	12/9/53	[Redacted] (oral)	Instant report
(U) [Redacted] (S)	Negative	12/9/53	[Redacted] (oral)	Instant report
(U) [Redacted] (S)	Negative	12/9/53	[Redacted]	Instant report
(U) [Redacted] (S)	Negative	12/21/53	[Redacted]	Instant report

REFERENCES: Report of SA [Redacted] New York, 11/5/53  
Bureau letter dated 11/25/53

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-293468)

DATE: 4/26/55

FROM : SAC, New York (100-56529)

SUBJECT: GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was.  
SM-C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 12/16/97 BY 1648/DKM/SLT

It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above-captioned individual.

X

The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ALIASES \_\_\_\_\_

NATIVE BORN \_\_\_\_\_ NATURALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ ALIEN \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNIST \_\_\_\_\_ SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY \_\_\_\_\_ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE \_\_\_\_\_

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

TAB FOR DETCOM \_\_\_\_\_ TAB FOR COMSAB \_\_\_\_\_ RACE \_\_\_\_\_ SEX \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address) \_\_\_\_\_

Consumers Union of U.S., Inc.

256 Washington Street, New York, N.Y.

## KEY FACILITY DATA:

GEOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ RESPONSIBILITY \_\_\_\_\_

INTERESTED AGENCIES \_\_\_\_\_

RESIDENCE ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

RM

RGS:MTR

NOT RECORDED

8 APR 27 1955

INT SEC

APR 10 1955



Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-293468)  
FROM : SAC, New York (100-56529)  
SUBJECT: GWENDOLYN BENNETT, was  
SM-C

DATE 6/3/55

Reference

SAC Letter 55-30, April 12, 1955.

Succinct Resume of Case

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/24/92 BY 1048/DMH/gtl

[Redacted] (Reliable) (Admissable) Serial-21 - p.2.

[Redacted] advised prior to 8/22/44 that subject's activities at that time consisted solely in directing the affairs of the George Washington Carver School of which subject is director. (cited by HCUA) (admissable)

A review of the 1944 catalogue of the Jefferson School of Social Science indicates that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was an instructor in "Art, History and Appreciation". (cited by AG) (admissable)

[Redacted] who furnished reliable information in the past, advised on 2/21/47 that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was a member of the National Cultural Commission of the CP. (Serial 84, p.2), (inadmissable)

b2  
b7D  
b6  
b7C

In October, 1948, Dr. MAX YERGEN, 22 Hamilton Terrace, NYC, former chairman of the council on African Affairs and former member of Board of Directors of the George Washington Carver School advised that he had heard from reliable sources that GWENDOLYN BENNETT, former director of the George Washington Carver School was suffering from a nervous breakdown; was somewhat mentally unbalanced; and that she was no longer connected with any activities of the CP. (inadmissable)

RM

**CANCELLED**

JUN 30 1955

RECORDED-32

EX-126

JUN 8 1955

WM:MJR

64 JUL 7 1955

Letter to Director  
NY 100-56529

[redacted] who has reported reliable information in <sup>b2</sup> <sup>b7D</sup> the past, advised on October 14, 1947 that subject was "through with the Communist Party" and was only interested in her own affairs and her duties as a housewife. (admissable)

The Jefferson School of Social Science for the winter term 1950, reflects that GWENDOLYN BENNETT was instructing a course entitled "How to Look at Pictures: Art Appreciation" on Wednesdays from 8:15 to 9:45.

The "Daily Worker" an East Coast Communist newspaper in November 22, 1950, December 6, 1951, February 8, 1952 issues reflected the subject was still active in the Jefferson School of Social Science. (admissable)

Recommendation

*I agree*  
*JER*

Delete from Security Index inasmuch as subject's activities do not come within the criteria for retention on SI as set forth in referenced SAC letter 55-30, 4/12/55.

Detcom Tabling

1. Subject not tabbed Detcom.
2. Not applicable.
3. Subject recommended for deletion from SI.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-293468) DATE: OCT 6 1955  
FROM : SAC, New York (100-56529)  
SUBJECT: GWENDOLYN BENNETT  
SECURITY MATTER - C

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

Re Bureau letter to NY, 5/4/55.

The NYO by letter dated 4/20/55 discontinued

RM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/16/92 BY 1648 DKM/gtt

100-293468-✓  
NOT RECORDED  
162 OCT 11 1955

FTT:PEH

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

71 OCT 24 1955

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

b6  
b7C

Date 1/15/59		Investigative Period 11/14/58 - 1/8/59	
Report made by <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 15px;"></div>		Typed By hjb	
TITLE OF CASE NEW YORK GWENDOLYN BENNETT, aka. <i>#340918</i> <i>1048 OKM/96</i> <i>12/29/92</i>			
CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C (Communist Index) DATE: 03-19-2007 CLASSIFIED BY 60324 auc baw/cpb/kj DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 3.3(1) 03-19-2032			
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE <del>XXXXXX</del>			

## REFERENCE

New York letter to the Director,  
dated 6/3/55.

- C -

## ADMINISTRATIVE

Subject is not being carried on the  
SI of the NYO and no recommendation is being  
made for the inclusion of her name on the SI  
inasmuch as her activities do not come within  
the present criteria. Subject is being retained  
on the CI.

A suitable photograph is available.

Subject is not being considered for  
an interview at this time because when interviewed  
in October of 1953, she reportedly stated that she  
was sure that she had no information that is not

Approved <i>[Signature]</i>	Special Agent In Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made 4 - Bureau (100-293468)(RM) 3 - New York (100-56529)		100-293468-23 25 JAN 19 1959 SUBV. CONTROL	REC- 92 135

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

67 JAN 28 1959

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

already in the possession of the FBI. It is also noted that approximately 11 years ago subject allegedly suffered a nervous breakdown.

This report has been classified "~~Confidential~~" because it contains information furnished by a highly placed confidential source, the disclosure of which would hamper future security investigations, thereby adversely affecting national security.

INFORMANTS

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

Identity of Source

File Number  
Where Located

Careful consideration has been given to the source concealed and a T symbol has been utilized in the report only in that instance where the identity of the source must be concealed.

Informants mentioned as having been contacted negatively are identified as follows:

Informant

Date Contacted

Agent Contacting

(U)

(S)

(S)

(S)

(S)

(S)

(S)

11/19/58

12/10/58

12/15/58

12/15/58

11/19/58

11/21/58

(U)

(U)

(U)

(U)

(U)

COVER PAGE

-A-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b1  
b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

NY 100-56529

	<u>Informant</u>	<u>Date Contacted</u>	<u>Agent Contacting</u>
(U)	(S)	11/19/58	
(U)	(S)	11/25/58	
(U)	(S)	11/25/58	
(U)	(S)	11/20/58	
(U)	(S)	11/21/58	
(U)	(S)	11/24/58	
(U)	(S)	11/21/58	
	(C)	11/21/58	

COVER PAGE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-B-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to

Report of SA   
Date January 15, 1959  
File Number New York 100-56529  
Bureau 100-293468  
Title GWENDOLYN BENNETT

Office. New York

b6  
b7C

Character SECURITY MATTER - C

Synopsis Subject resides 2 West 120th Street, NYC, and is employed by Consumers Union of U.S., Inc., 256 Washington, Mt. Vernon, NY. Subject reportedly was a member of the IWO as of late 1953.

- C -

#1340918  
DECLASSIFIED BY 1048 DKM/glt  
ON 12/16/92

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



NY 100-56529

DETAILS:

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

BACKGROUND

Residence and Employment

On November 21, 1958, a [ ] Personnel Department, Consumers Union of United States, Incorporated, 256 Washington, Mt. Vernon, New York, advised SA [ ] that the subject as GWENDOLYN BENNETT CROSSCUP continues to be employed by the above, and resides at 2 West 120th Street, New York City.

AFFILIATION WITH THE  
COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

Communist Party Fronts

On June 22, 1954, [ ] furnished information which reflected that subject was a member of the International Workers Order as of late 1953.

The International Workers Order has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

MISCELLANEOUS

Informants who are familiar with certain phases of Communist Party activity in the New York City area, were contacted relative to the subject in November and December, 1958, and were unable to furnish any information.

The Communist Party has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-56529

DESCRIPTION

The following description of the subject was  
obtained by SA [ ] on November 21, 1958:

b6  
b7C

Age	Approximately 50
Race	Negro
Complexion	Medium
Height	5'2"
Weight	180 pounds
Hair	Black

- C -

- 3 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



**United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation**

New York, New York

100-56529

January 15, 1959

Re: Gwendolyn Bennett  
Security Matter - C

With regard to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated and captioned as above, the informants mentioned therein all have furnished reliable information in the past.

b6  
b7C

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of any kind. It is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is a loan to your agency; it and/or its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.